







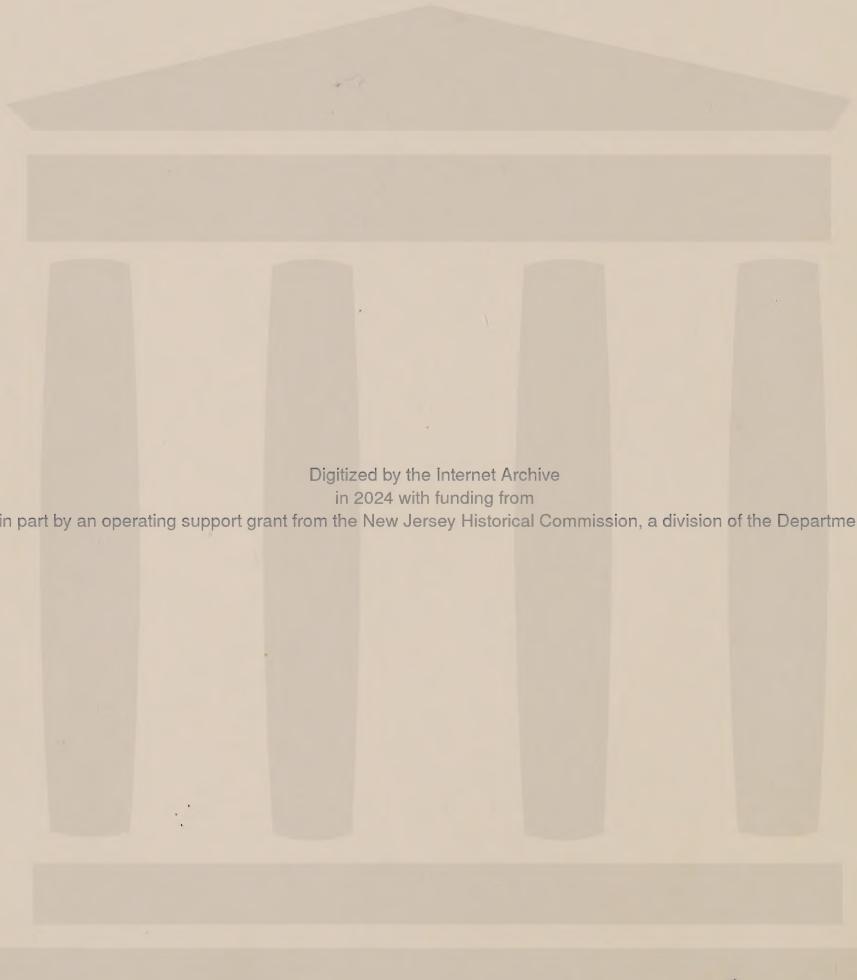


# this is PLAINFIELD



by the League of Women Voters

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# *This is* PLAINFIELD

NEW JERSEY

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Cover photograph taken at  
Library Park by Dick Gaine.

A KNOW YOUR TOWN SURVEY  
*Prepared and Published by*  
The Plainfield League of Women Voters  
Plainfield, New Jersey - - - - - 1954

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PLAINFIELD FROM THE AIR

DICK GAINES

# This Is PLAINFIELD

The League of Women Voters has published this book to make easily available to our fellow citizens a basic tool of responsible citizenship: factual information about our city government, our public services and our community. The material was collected by League members through research and by conferences with government and organization officials. It is accurate to the best of our knowledge. It is hoped that the reader will find the book interesting and informative, and that it will serve as an inspiration for extended study and participation in public affairs.

The Plainfield League is grateful to the city and organization officials who so graciously received our representatives, and to the many others who contributed their talents and encouragement to this project. We are also appreciative of the co-operation of the many commercial and industrial organizations which supported the publication of our book through listings in the business directory.

## And This Is The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters is an outgrowth of the Woman Suffrage Association. It was organized primarily to promote political education for the 20 million new voters who came into existence through the Constitutional Amendment of 1920 which granted women the right to vote. It was thought that this purpose could be accomplished in five years and that the League could then disband. But expanding horizons of usefulness appeared and the original purpose grew to include working for legislation in the public interest and arousing all citizens to participate in government. With its expansion in purpose has come growth in numbers until every state is represented at the National LWV Convention.

The philosophy underlying League activities is the unfaltering belief in the importance of the individual, the feeling that such importance is best realized through the form of government which we in the United States enjoy, and the conviction that every citizen has the responsibility of using his intelligence and experience to perpetuate our representative government in effectiveness and security.

Translating these beliefs into action, the League,  
—Works to inform itself and others regarding government at all levels—local, state and national.  
—Concentrates its study and action on a few current issues chosen by its membership or their representatives.  
—Sponsors community discussions of these issues to stimulate citizen interest and informed responsibility.  
—Maintains a non-partisan policy by never supporting or opposing political parties or candidates, but urges all citizens, including its own members (except the executive board), to be active in the party of their choice.  
—Furnishes information on voting procedures and candidates through non-partisan published material and candidates meetings.  
—Accepts for membership any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League. Voting members must be women of voting age. Associate members include men, persons under voting age, and noncitizen women.

# PLAINFIELD—Yesterday and Today

The story of a city is the story of its people, their dreams and their accomplishments, their weaknesses and their strengths.

Plainfield's earliest settlers, like many others who pioneered this country, came here to escape persecution in their homelands and to find the religious and political freedoms denied them in their own countries. By 1685, seven families (whose names identify them as "all good Scots") established farms along the Cedar Brook.

## The Indian

But long before the arrival of the first settlers, the Indians had frequented the area in their travels between the Hudson and Delaware rivers. The trail they marked out hundreds of years ago ran through the heart of our city. When the railroad was built in the 1800s, it followed that old Indian trail. The Indian, lured by a love of seafood, branched off his main trail to the Hudson and cut down to the ocean. Today's Woodland Avenue follows that old Indian cut-off to the sea.

The settling of New Jersey did not involve the problem of hostile Indians as it did in so many of the new colonies. The New Jersey tribe, the Lenni-Lenape of the Algonquin group, had been thoroughly subdued by their ferocious neighbors, the Iroquois. Also there were 2500 square miles of land and only about 2000 Indians, so the white men had plenty of room for a peaceful entry. The Watchungs, a division of the Lenni-Lenape tribe (commonly called Delaware), were the Indians living in this area. The greatest enemy of the new land was a plague that only recently has been brought under control—the New Jersey mosquito!

The new settlement was named Milltown, an evident bow to the grist mill which was built in 1760 on the Green Brook River near what is now Watchung Avenue. By 1788, the Quakers had moved their Friends' Meeting House to the corner of Watchung Avenue and East Third Street where it still remains as one of the historical landmarks of the city. It originally was built in 1736 near the present day Plainfield Country Club.

## The American Revolution

During the American Revolution, although the area was mostly open farm land with a population of only about fifty people, it was of sufficient military importance to warrant a large militia post. Built along the east bank

of Green Brook River between what is now Clinton and West End Avenues, the post, comprising 95 acres and a large fort, guarded the main road to Quibbletown, the New Market of today, and the mountain pass, of which the present day Somerset Street is an extension.

## The Nathaniel Drake House

The Nathaniel Drake House, built in 1746, is still standing on West Front Street at the head of Plainfield Avenue. General Washington is known to have visited it, and many believe that it served as his headquarters for a time during the war period. In 1921, the Plainfield Historical Society was formed to preserve the house and the property was later conveyed to the city.

In 1800 a postoffice was established and the name of the growing community was changed to Plainfield. The name was appropriate to the gently rolling fields of the area, which at that time sustained a population of only 215 people.

Growth was accelerated from that point on and in 1834 this description of Plainfield appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper, the *Gordon Gazetteer*.

"Plainfield—A large and thriving village of Westfield Township, Essex County, on Green Brook, the line between that and Somerset County, 65 miles from Philadelphia, 45 miles from Trenton, 20 miles southwest from Newark, 16 miles from Elizabethtown, 25 miles from New York and 11 northeast from New Brunswick, on a plain of very level land between 2 and 3 miles wide and about 11 long. Contains 1 Presbyterian, 1 Baptist and 1 Methodist church, 2 Friends Meeting Houses (Hicksite and Orthodox), 2 Grist Mills, 1 Saw Mill, 4 stores, 3 schools, 2 clergymen, 1 lawyer, 2 physicians, 2 taverns, 13 master hatters who manufacture about \$75,000 worth of hats annually, 5 master tailors employing 70 hands who work for the southern market, a fire engine and company, a mutual insurance company established in 1832, which, in a few months, executed policies to the amount of more than \$150,000, a Ladies' Library, an Apprentices' Library, a four-horse mail stage to N. Y. 3 times a week, and as often to Philadelphia, on alternate days run through the village. The country around the town is rich, well cultivated and healthy, the water good and society moral and religious and ambitious of improvement, the neighboring mountains about a mile north of the town afford an



WATCHUNG AVENUE IN 1909

abundant supply of cheap fuel and screen the valley from the violence of the north and northwest winds and gives a very pleasing prospect to the S. and E. over a space of 30 miles."

John Wilson had started a hat industry in 1808 which had grown to large proportions by 1834. The industry flourished for some years and then went into a decline, but Plainfield hat makers still employ over 100 people today. The *Plainfield Union and General Advertiser*, a weekly newspaper issued every Thursday, was first published in 1837. The population had grown to over a thousand. In 1857 Essex County was divided and Plainfield was in the new Union County.

#### The Railroad

The new and great force that was a creator and developer of urban communities—the railroad—was completed in 1838 and provided rail service between Plainfield and Elizabethtown. The train supplanted the stagecoach runs between these points, and to reach New York the traveler still boarded a boat at Elizabethport. Southwestward from Plainfield he traveled to Philadelphia by stagecoach. But growth was steady and the railroad kept pace with the increased travel until finally, when rail service offered direct connections with New York, Plainfield came into its own as a commuters' town. Many of the city dwellers who came to spend their summers and vaca-

tions "in the country" stayed to build their homes here.

#### Plainfield Becomes a Town

By an act of the New Jersey legislature, Plainfield was made a township in 1847. In 1867 it was incorporated as a village and in 1869 became a city. Job Male was its first mayor and the city charter was adopted in 1872.

The Plainfield Gas Light Company opened its plant in 1860 and served the community until 1906, and the Plainfield Electric Light Company started business in 1886. In 1862 Western Union opened a branch office and by 1883 the first telephone station was established.

#### Rapid Growth

The changes that have taken place over the years have followed the pattern of our national growth and progress. The rise in population is always the most obvious. From the mere 215 in 1800, we had grown to 42,366 in 1950. Between 1930 and 1940, we increased by about 3,000 people, and between 1940 and 1950 we grew an additional 6,000. Current city population is about 45,800. The telephone began service with twelve subscribers, and in three years this figure had grown to 120. Today we list over 17,000 residential and almost 3,000 business phones. In 1835 we had 138 homes; today there are almost 13,000 with a median value exceeding \$12,000, and more than half of them are occupied by their owners.

## Plainfield Today

Plainfield is the shopping center for a surrounding trade area of 85 towns and over 200,000 people. It has several hundred sales and service stores, including department stores, variety and specialty shops, appliance, equipment and supply establishments. Its principal industries are varied, ranging from heavy machinery and equipment through handbags and novelties.

The city has an area of 6.25 square miles and is located 24 miles from New York via U. S. route 22 and State highway 28. The Watchung Mountains to the north of the city rise to about 550 feet. The central plaza of the town, just south of City Hall, is 100 feet above sea level, but the average of the town is 105 feet with Woodland as high as 130 feet.

### The Newspaper

An invaluable public servant in any community is its daily press. Newspapers not only keep the citizen abreast of the current events in his community, nation, and the world, they are also the faithful guardians of a basic American freedom: the public's right to know all the news—unbiased and uncensored—one of the keys to all our liberties.

A builder of public opinion through the interpretations and editorial comment of news, the daily press adds to its public service the commercial advertisements which constitute an important part of our economic life.

Today the Plainfield area is served by the Plainfield Courier-News, whose history dates back about seventy years. It is a combination of three daily newspapers, each one having been established between the years 1884 and 1891.

The Courier-News has enjoyed a remark-

able growth under its present ownership and management, the Gannett Company, Inc. In 1941 it erected a new and thoroughly modern plant at East Second and Church Streets. This building, expected to serve a fast growing newspaper for 20 to 25 years, was soon outgrown. The newspaper occupied a second story addition to its present building in 1954.

In 1927 the paper had less than 10,000 circulation. Today the Courier-News has a net paid circulation of almost 31,000 with subscribers in Union, Somerset, Middlesex, Hunterdon and Morris counties. About 12,000 subscribers are Plainfield residents and another 10,000 live in the immediate vicinity.

Publication of the local paper requires the services of 155 regular employees, plus some 45 correspondents who send in news from the surrounding territory. The paper is delivered by about 200 newspaper boys.

The local press uses Associated Press service for world-wide news coverage, maintains bureaus in Somerville and Washington, D. C., and special correspondents in the county seats of Union, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties.

The Plainfield Courier-News adheres to a policy of giving priority to local news—events in the communities which it serves. World, national and state news is edited down when the space requires a choice between such news and local interest items.

The Plainfield Courier-News was one of the first small-city newspapers to install microfilming facilities. This equipment is used to enlarge and read the microfilmed editions of all issues of the Plainfield Courier-News as well as those of its predecessors back to 1837. Storing of such records requires only one-fiftieth of the space necessary for bound volumes of newspaper editions.



THE PLAINFIELD COURIER-NEWS

DICK GAINES

# **GOVERNMENT—Good Government Begins at Home**

Plainfield was incorporated as a city in 1869, and its charter was granted by a special act of the state legislature in 1872, and adopted shortly thereafter by local referendum. Since that time, succeeding acts of the legislature have largely superseded the provisions of the original charter. Today Plainfield derives its authority principally from general state laws (as well as specific state laws applicable to cities of its size), and its governmental powers are generally limited to those which are expressly prescribed in such laws.

Certain state regulations are mandatory, particularly in matters of finance, education, health, and welfare, but much state legislation is permissive and requires a local ordinance to make it effective in a given municipality.

Plainfield's form of government was established by its charter and is commonly defined, on the basis of delegated powers, as the "weak mayor-strong council" type. The elected officials are the mayor, eleven councilmen, a treasurer and a tax collector.

## **The Mayor**

The mayor, elected on the even year, is a part-time official. State law requires him to be a citizen of the United States, at least 21 years of age and a resident of the city for a year.

The mayor is the ceremonial head of the city and is regarded by its citizens as their chief representative in government. Although the laws are made by the Common Council, and most of the functions are carried out by the boards and city departments, all fields are within the sphere of the mayor's activities. His annual message to the Common Council's organization meeting each New Year's Day demonstrates the scope of his interests. The message, reproduced by the local press, recites past progress and outlines future needs in all categories of community public services.

The mayor is a member of the Board of School Estimate, the Planning Board, the Police Board and the Sinking Fund Commission. In emergency, he is empowered to take control of the police and fire departments.

The broad appointive powers of the mayor are delegated to him by the state laws which require or authorize many policy-making boards, and he is also empowered to appoint certain municipal personnel. With the exception of the Board of Education, Planning Board, and Civil Rights Commission, all his

appointments are subject to Council confirmation.

The mayor has no vote in the Common Council, but has the power to veto its ordinances, and resolutions involving the expenditure of money. Such veto, however, can be over-ridden by a simple majority—the same vote by which the act is passed.

In the absence of the mayor, the president of the council or the chairman of the council's committee of the whole becomes acting mayor.

## **The Common Council**

The Common Council is the governing body of the city. It enacts laws regulating the internal affairs of the city and enforces such local ordinances as well as applicable state laws. It controls finances by approving the municipal budget, fixing city taxes, and appropriating public funds. All city departments function under the jurisdiction of the council. It is empowered to appoint certain city officials, and almost all mayoralty appointments are subject to its approval.

The council comprises eleven members: two from each of the city's four wards plus three from the city at-large. Four ward councilmen are elected on the even year. The remaining four and the three councilmen-at-large are elected on the odd year. Councilmen must be U.S. citizens at least 21 years old and residents of the districts they represent. They are part-time officials.

Council meetings, open to the public for expression of opinion, are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month (1st Mondays only in July and August) at 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. Committee of the whole meetings of the council, recently opened for public observance, are held Thursday evenings preceding the Common Council meetings.

At its organization meeting January 1, the council annually elects one of its members to serve as president. The president then appoints council members to the various standing committees, naming a chairman for each. The scope of the council's activities is indicated by its standing committees, which are,—the committee of the whole; public works; fire; parks and public buildings; police; welfare, health and recreation; tax, assessing and finance; salary, personnel and civil service; purchase and inventory; and public relations. Matters referred to the committees for study or investigation are reported back to the council with recommendations for action.

# THESE ARE PLAINFIELD'S CITY OFFICIALS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

		Terms	Salary Range	Members
Elected	Mayor	2 years	\$ 300.	
	Councilmen	2 years	None	
	Treasurer	5 years	2,250.	
	Tax Collector	4 years	5,100-6,300. plus 750. as tax search officer	
Named by Common Council	Corporation Counsel	3 years	7,250. plus steno. allowance	
	Ass't. Corp. Counsel	1 year	3,440.-4,400.	
	City Clerk & Auditor	3 years	7,450.-9,450.	
	Tax Assessor	4 years	6,450.-9,450.	
	Physician	3 years	5,000.	
	Plainfield Housing Authority	5 years	None	6
	Board of Adjustment	3 years	None	5
Named by Mayor	Board of Education	5 years	None	5
	Planning Board	2-4 years	None	7*
	Civil Rights Commission	3 years	None	
	City Engineer	2 years	7,500.-10,500.	
	Municipal Magistrate	3 years	5,250. plus steno. allowance	
	Civil Service	Supervisor of Finances Police Chief Fire Chief Building Inspector	5,875.-7,875	
			6,400.	
			6,400.	
			5,100.-6,300.	
Named by Mayor with Council Approval	Board of Appeals	3 years	None	5
	Board of Health	5 years	None	5
	Commissioner of Assessments	3 years	\$75 per report	3
	Library Board	3 years	None	9
	Local Assistance Board	4 years	None	5
	Recreation Commission	5 years	None	5
	Shade Tree Commission	5 years	None	3
	Sinking Fund Commission	2-3-5 years	None	5
	Traffic and Parking Commission	1-2 years	None	12
	Youth Guidance Council	3 years	None	.7
	Public Officer	1 year	1,000.-1,500.	
Named by Council and Board of Education	Board of School Estimate	1 year	None	5

\*includes a Councilman appointed by the Council

## **City Treasurer**

The city treasurer is a part-time official and is customarily an officer of a local bank. He receives and disburses all city monies on order of the Common Council. He has charge of bond records and prepares debt statements. He signs all checks and serves as liaison with the city's banks, in all of which city funds are deposited.

## **Tax Collector**

The tax collector is responsible for computing and issuing all tax bills and for collecting and recording all tax receipts. He also acts as the city's tax search officer, conducting tax sales and issuing removal permits. (The latter are required by city ordinance prior to changing residence.)

## **Supervisor of Finances**

The supervisor of finances, appointed through civil service, has complete authority, under council jurisdiction, over the city's fiscal affairs. It is his responsibility to prepare and administer the budget of each city department as well as the general city budget. Purchasing of supplies for all city departments is centralized under the supervisor of finances.

Plainfield's full-time tax assessor sets values on real and personal property for tax revenue purposes.

## **City Clerk**

The city clerk acts as secretary to the city corporation. He has custody of all ordinances, resolutions, deeds, contracts, maps and other documents and is keeper of the official seal. He is responsible for recording all meetings of the council and its committees and he administers and channels their general and specific policies. He acts as the city's press relations officer and his office serves as a general directory service. He is responsible for personnel recruitment and administration and maintains pension and civil service records. He handles sales of city properties, issues licenses and permits authorized by the council, and is responsible for conducting elections and the registration of voters.

## **City Engineer**

The city engineer heads the Department of Public Works which has responsibility for the construction, improvement and general maintenance of city-owned property, including streets, street-lighting, storm and sanitary sewers, and municipal buildings and parks. His department is responsible for preparation

of engineering specifications for such public works and supervision of construction by private contractors.

## **Building Inspector**

The building inspector, appointed through civil service, administers a division of the Department of Public Works and is responsible for the enforcement of the building code and zoning regulations set up by the Common Council. He makes inspections and issues permits for new construction and improvements. Under a current appointment, he also acts as the city's public officer, enforcing the law which relates to sub-standard housing.

## **City Physician**

The city physician acts in an advisory capacity to all city departments where his services are required. Specifically, he attends city welfare cases; gives physical examinations to candidates for city employment; examines accident cases involving municipal personnel; and conducts drunkometer tests for the Police Department.

## **Corporation Counsel**

The corporation counsel is the city's attorney and acts as legal adviser to the council, mayor, and city departments. The assistant corporation counsel is designated by city ordinance to act as prosecutor in the municipal court and he is legal advisor to departments assigned to him by the ordinance.

The further functions of city officials and departments, as well as boards and commissions, are described in later chapters devoted to specific activities.

## **Civil Service**

Civil service was established in Plainfield by public referendum in 1940 and the approximately 300 city employees have been chosen, with few exceptions, from civil service lists. City jobs are classified as to requirements and qualifications for purposes of recruitment and promotion. All civil service employees must serve a three-month probationary period. Following permanent employment, they may be dismissed only for inefficiency in performance of duties or misbehavior on the job. While not required to take civil service examinations, laborers employed by city departments are under civil service jurisdiction.

Promotions are made by civil service examination, and these examinations must be held when there are more than three candidates for a job. With less than three candidates, permanent promotions within a department may be made on the recommendation of

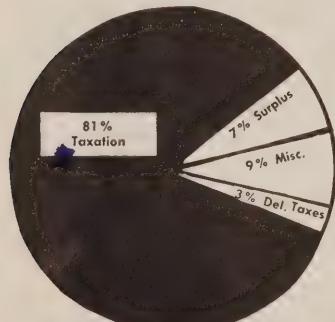
the department head and with the approval of the State Department of Civil Service.

All city employees have the privilege of membership in the State Employees' Retirement System, with the exception of firemen and policemen who are members of retirement systems set up specifically for them. Employees may retire after 25 years of service or at any time after reaching the age of 60. Contributions to the State Employees' Retirement System are made by the employees and the city.

### Source of City's Income

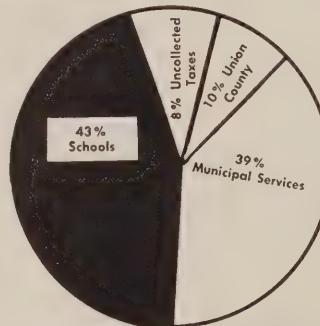
Over 80% of Plainfield's income is derived from taxation of property. Remaining sources of income are franchise taxes, gross receipts taxes, license fees, parking meter collections, etc.

Assessments are made of all residential, commercial, and industrial real and personal property. Under a tax equalization program, real properties in the city have been reassessed since 1948. It is the practice to assess property at 100% of true value. For land, this is considered to be current market value (average of sales in the area or comparable areas). For buildings, true value is arrived at by translating to 1941 values (an average year) the



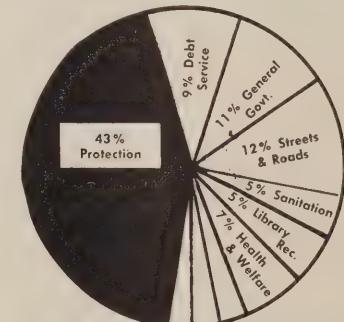
### PLAINFIELD'S INCOME

Surplus revenue appropriated .....	\$ 460,000
Miscellaneous revenue .....	498,951
Delinquent tax receipts .....	170,000
To be raised by taxation .....	5,032,562
	\$6,161,513



### PLAINFIELD'S EXPENDITURES

General municipal services .....	\$2,400,405
Plainfield public schools ..	2,652,065
Union County .....	630,000
Reserve for uncollected taxes .....	479,043
	\$6,161,513



### GENERAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES

General govt. ....	\$ 255,807
Protection .....	1,032,832
Streets and roads ..	298,375
Sanitation .....	118,122
Health and welfare ..	166,704
Recreation and library .....	116,570
Unclassified and contingent .....	47,990
	\$2,036,400
Capital improvements ..	97,175
Municipal debt service .....	225,977
Deferred charges and statutory ....	40,853
	\$2,400,405

determined by the Commissioners of Assessments. Payment of such special assessments may be spread over a reasonable period of time. Each Commissioner is paid \$75 per improvement for his services.

Railroad property taxes are levied and collected by the state and apportioned among the municipalities, as are gross receipt and franchise taxes on utilities.

### Plainfield's Indebtedness

Municipal indebtedness is incurred only for financing major long range improvements. As of September 1, 1954, city bonded indebtedness was \$2,054,600 and net school debt was \$3,632,458. The total of approximately  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars compares to a current debt limit imposed by the state of about 9 million dollars. As a result of Plainfield's favorable debt position, it enjoys the exceptionally high Moody credit rating of AA, an influencing factor in securing low interest rates on any future borrowing.

Principal payments are made currently on municipal bonds sold since 1916. Funds reserved to repay the principal of non-amortizing bonds issued prior to 1916 are handled by a Sinking Fund Commission. The Commission, established in accordance with state statute, is composed of the mayor, the city treasurer, and three citizen members, and it will expire in 1965 when all non-amortizing bonds will have been paid in full.

Municipal indebtedness is limited by the state to 15% of its total assessed valuations of real property (average for preceding three years). Of this, 7% applies to city debt and 8% to school debt. To finance city improvements, the council may issue municipal bonds within the 7% debt limit. For school construction, the council must appropriate any amount requested by the Board of School Estimate (mayor, 2 councilmen, 2 Board of Education members) which does not increase total school debt beyond 3% of assessed valuations. School debt beyond 3% but not in excess of 8% may be incurred at the council's discretion. School debt beyond 8% may be applied against the municipal debt limit of 7%, if available, by the Common Council—or the council may refer this decision to public referendum. Exceeding the debt limit of 15%, either for school or health and welfare purposes, requires a local referendum and the respective consent of the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Health, and the Local Government Board of the State of New Jersey.



THE CITY HALL

### The Municipal Budget

Plainfield operates under an annual budget which is balanced when it is adopted. The total city budget includes estimated requirements for school operation as well as city services.

The municipal budget covers the current calendar year and is prepared for the council by the supervisor of finances. It includes all items of income and outgo, based on estimates of the various city departments, and includes interest and principal payments on both school and city bonded indebtedness. The council reviews the proposed municipal budget around the first of February each year on "Budget Sunday". Upon application, organizations may send representatives to this meeting. Following council revisions the proposed budget is certified to the state for approval, published in the local press in mid-February, and given a public hearing following state approval but prior to council approval.

The school budget, covering the ensuing fiscal year July 1st to June 30th, is prepared by the Board of Education and is subject to the approval of the Board of School Estimate. Following a public hearing in February, the Board of School Estimate certifies to the council the amount it recommends for operation of the schools. If this amount does not exceed  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the city's total assessed valuation of real property (average of preceding three years), the council must appropriate the amount certified. An amount in excess of  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  is subject to the approval of the council.

When the net school appropriation is added to the municipal budget, a preliminary tax rate may be computed. But Plainfield's total tax rate is determined by the Union County Board of Taxation. The Board adds Plain-

field's share of the expenses of county government to the amount to be raised by taxes for school and city purposes. County expenses are allocated to municipalities on the basis of their assessed valuations and in the ratio that the assessed valuations of each community bear to the total of all.

The 1954 cost of Plainfield's government, including municipal, school, and county expenses, was \$6,164,263, or an estimated per capita cost of \$145.50. The 1954 tax rate was \$6.94 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Tax delinquencies represented 4.38% in 1953.

The Common Council administers the budget, money being paid out on order of the council with checks signed by the city clerk and city treasurer. It is mandatory to advertise for bids for purchases over \$1000 except in cases of extreme emergency, or in the purchase of "name" equipment.

Under the law, transfers are allowed from one budget appropriation to another after November 1. No city department may exceed its appropriation except through an emergency appropriation made in accordance with prescribed regulations.

The amounts due the county and schools are remitted to them by the city. Once remitted, the council relinquishes all jurisdiction over such funds to the Union County Board of Freeholders and the Board of Education respectively.

Taxes and other funds due the city are deposited by the collector in a general fund, but such collector has no power of withdrawal.

Plainfield's municipal finances are audited annually by a firm of registered municipal accountants chosen by the Common Council.

#### **Home Rule Act**

Statewide, a trend toward greater municipal autonomy began in 1917 with the Home Rule Act and continued with the 1947 revision of the State Constitution. The latter permits a local governing body to petition the state for a different form of local government. To become operative, such change must be enacted into law by a two-thirds vote of the legislature and be passed by local ordinance or public referendum, whichever is specified in the legislative enactment.

The 1950 Optional Municipal Charter Act (known as the Faulkner Act) goes a step further toward municipal self-rule and permits the citizens of a community, as well as its local governing body, to initiate a change in governmental form. Petition by 20% of any municipality's voters, or a resolution by its governing body, requires the election of a charter commission. Such commissions, composed of private citizens, analyze the existing governmental form as well as several optional plans embodied in the Charter Act. Should the Commission decide that another of the suggested forms would serve the municipality better, it may so recommend to the voters for their decision by referendum, or it may recommend continuance of the existing governmental form.



**IRIS GARDEN  
IN CEDAR  
BROOK PARK**

**UNION COUNTY  
PARK  
COMMISSION**

# **RECREATION—Not by Bread Alone**

Any activity that gives pleasure and is engaged in from choice, not necessity, becomes recreation for the individual. Such opportunity for wholesome recreation is provided by both public and private organizations in Plainfield.

From early fall through late spring the calendar of events in the city is crowded with cultural, civic and social activities. Over 150 clubs and organizations provide programs in almost every field of interest.

## **The Department of Recreation**

By working in cooperation with other organizations whenever possible, the Department of Recreation gives guidance and assistance to the interested citizenry while allowing the execution of details to remain in the hands of volunteers. Originating as a Playground Commission in 1910, a Department of Recreation was developed in 1923. The full-time staff consists of a director, two assistants, a secretary and a maintenance man. The part-time services of from 30 to 35 paid playground directors, arts and crafts teachers, game officials, etc. are also required.

The Recreation Commission, an advisory board to the Department, is composed of five citizens appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council. Its members serve for five-year terms without pay and may be reappointed.

In cooperation with the Board of Education, the department sponsors the Adult Evening School, which is administered by its own council. Under this program almost any subject or course for which an expert instructor can be found is made available to all for a nominal fee. The interest of the adult students is the governing factor in the choice of classes offered.

The department also works in cooperation with the Board of Education in supplying recreational facilities for the youngsters of Plainfield. For while the department owns one playground with a building for activities at Plainfield Avenue and W. Third Street, and one large athletic field with field house and equipment located at Garfield Avenue and North Avenue, school facilities are used to offer the wide-scale program that is necessary in a city as large as Plainfield. Supervised playgrounds are operated daily during the summer months at Barlow, Bryant, Cook, Clinton, Emerson, Irving, Lincoln, Maxson and Stillman schools. These offer a well balanced program of supervised play, crafts and ath-

letics. Use is also made of the county reservation and of county and state parks. The department also owns another large tract of land at Rushmore and W. Third Street, but this is undeveloped yet. In addition, there are five recreation or hobby centers at Emerson, Seidler, Stillman, Plainfield Avenue and Jefferson.

Making use of school gymnasiums as well as playgrounds, leagues in baseball, softball, touch football and basketball are organized and scheduled during their seasons. These leagues are so organized that from the age of nine until he wishes to discontinue active participation, a boy can fit into an organized league in any of these sports.

In addition, adult ball teams are organized and a golf league is sponsored. The tennis courts on the high school field at Randolph Road and Woodland Avenue are open to the public daily during the tennis season. The High School swimming pool is under the Department's supervision during the summer months. A fencing club, which sponsors several tournaments, meets at the high school twice a week where free instruction is provided. An annual table tennis tournament is held with junior and senior competition.

The Recreation Department sponsors a variety of other activities and events such as a soap-box derby, square dances for all ages and teen-age dances, and it participates in the Drama Tournament. In the winter, it blocks off streets to provide safe coasting areas, and posts local ponds for ice-skating. A sportsmen's show, featuring exhibits and demonstrations of outdoor life and outdoor sports, has been held annually for the last few years and bids fair to become a hardy perennial.

## **Celebrating the Holidays**

The holidays traditionally call for special celebrations. For Halloween, the department sponsors a costume parade and talent show. A large scale celebration is developed for the Fourth of July. For this, the Recreation Superintendent works in cooperation with the Public Relations Committee of the Common Council to help create a successful—and safe—program. For the Christmas season, the Plainfield Post Office cooperates, and a special mailbox is placed outside the Post Office, easily accessible to the young children for mailing their letters to Santa Claus. A committee of volunteers answers all letters.

The Recreation Council for Sut-ins, supported by gift contributions, organizes visits

to shut-ins, as well as the delivery of books, fruit baskets, letters and craft materials.

Advisory facilities are available in a variety of fields. Help in planning a home play area, assistance in planning a party, or a musical program or a vacation is to be had for the asking. Movie projectors and screens, slide-projector, record-player or picnic kits are lent by the Department.

New activities are added to the long list whenever public interest indicates a need. In the last five years over 1,100 volunteers have worked with the Department, assisting in the planning and execution of special events and projects. About half of the department's activities are adult projects, all of which are self-supporting through entry fees, dues and tickets. The remaining cost of the program is supported by tax money.

#### **Amateur Dramatics**

For the many who are interested in local amateur dramatics, the high point of the local season occurs every spring when the Plainfield Drama Tournament brings together six or more drama groups to compete in a spirit of friendly rivalry for a trophy and other awards. The tournament is presented by the Plainfield Area Little Theater Council, which is made up of representatives of all participating groups, interested individuals, and a staff member of the city's Department of Recreation. The Council also sponsors a Junior Tournament, which invites and encourages the participation of all high school age drama groups in the vicinity. Not only self supporting, the PALTC has become philanthropic as well, contributing 80% of income from ticket sales for scholarships to high school graduates planning to major in dramatic arts.

#### **Cultural Groups**

One of the oldest non-profit musical organizations in the country is the Plainfield Symphony Society. This volunteer group has given continuous pleasure to the music lovers of the city and the surrounding communities for 35 years. The orchestra consists of 80 musicians from the Plainfield area and their three concerts a year are arranged to offer the public varied types of classical and semi-classical selections of both modern and traditional composers. A special concert for children has been a recent innovation which is presented with assistance from the Junior League of Plainfield. The children's concert is informal and the children mingle with the musicians to watch how the instruments are played.

Another group fostering the musical interest of the public is the Plainfield Community Concerts Association. With a subscription membership of over a thousand it presents a program of concerts featuring musicians of international renown.

The Plainfield Mendelssohn Glee Club, a volunteer, non-profit group of about seventy men from the surrounding area, brings to Plainfield four concerts of outstanding merit.

For the literary minded, the Plainfield Library offers a stimulating opportunity in its Great Books Discussion Group, which is open to all adults who like to read and exchange ideas. Beginning in the fall of the year, this group meets informally for two hours in the evening every second week with trained leaders moderating discussion of selected classics.

Through the efforts of the Plainfield Public Library and the Plainfield Art Association, a group dedicated to stimulating and encouraging art in the area, a variety of exhibits are presented each year in the Gallery of the library.

Specialized interests and hobbies, such as bridge, chess, stamps, photography and gardening are served by the activities of a group of organizations. A long list of veteran, political, fraternal and service clubs round out the picture. Each of the many organizations makes its unique contribution to the betterment of the city. Many have national affiliations and many are philanthropic. Together they create in Plainfield a well-rounded community life.



**HOBBIES**

## **Union County Parks in Plainfield**

**Cedar Brook**—A truly outstanding beauty spot, this park is located in the south end of town and can be reached by entrances at Park Avenue, Randolph Road and Pemberton Avenue. It comprises eighty-six acres and represents a miracle of transformation for this area was originally the city garbage dump and a swamp. Today it is the garden center of the Union County Park system.

The Shakespeare Garden located in the western portion of the park is recognized as one of the finest in the country. Begun in 1927, it has been developed by the Commission in cooperation with the Shakespeare Garden Club and the Garden Clubs of Plainfield. The garden, with its seventeen flower beds, is planted with flowers of which Shakespeare wrote and with other flowers known to have been grown in England during the 16th and 17th centuries. Centered by a sun dial, the garden reaches its beauty peak early in June, but is a delight at any time during the blooming season.

Also considered to be one of the finest in the country, the Iris Garden was started in 1934 and now contains 1,500 labeled varieties, totaling 75,000 plants. On weekends throughout the blooming season members of the American Iris Society and members of the Iris Committee of the Plainfield Garden Club are present to answer the questions of the many visitors.

The Daffodil Plantation, begun in 1937 and now containing many thousands of bulbs representing more than two hundred varieties, all properly labeled, are planted in drifts against a background of evergreens and shrubs.

Begun in 1939, the Peony Garden now contains about 125 plants representing one hundred named varieties. The Hemerocallis bed, started in 1949, is also thriving with almost 80 varieties of lilies.

An especially fine display of about 200 dogwood trees has been developed along the Park Avenue entrance. With the cooperation of the Plainfield Garden Club, a Dogwood Arboretum has been started and presently contains 43 varieties of trees and shrubs.

As early as the last week in March, the yellow flowers of the cornelian cherry come into bloom. An outstanding planting of them borders the entrance drive from Park Avenue.

The recreational facilities of Cedar Brook Park include a band stand, a baseball field, a bridle path, field hockey, two horseshoe courts, a softball field, a soccer field, a cricket field, a football field, 2 quoits courts, four tennis courts, three field houses and shelters,

two picnic areas with fireplaces, a lake offering ice-skating and hockey in winter and fishing in summer. No charge is made for the use of any of these facilities.

**Green Brook**—In 1926 the City of Plainfield and the Borough of North Plainfield donated to the Union County Park Commission a partially developed park of sixty acres. The Commission has since expanded it to one hundred acres and developed it to the present beautiful spot familiar to all Plainfielders. Located in the west end of town, Green Brook has entrances on West End Avenue, Myrtle, and Clinton Avenues.

Green Brook, the stream which flows through the center of the park which bears its name, has its beginning in Seeley's Pond in the Watchung Reservation. Two small lakes provide skating in the winter and fishing in the summer. A band stand, a baseball field, a bowling green, coasting area, two field houses and shelters, a football field, six horseshoe courts, 3 quoits courts, a soccer field and two softball fields, a playground and picnic area with fireplaces—all invite recreational activities and no charge is made for the use of any of the facilities.

Of horticultural interest is an exceptionally fine rhododendron border which is in bloom from May 15th to about May 28th.

These two parks are administered by the Union County Park Commission, a five-man, policy making body appointed by the Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of Union County for a five-year term without pay.) The parks are supported by County tax monies collected from all municipalities in the county and by self-sustaining facilities. Cross-arrangements make the parks available for all-around and coordinated use by the Plainfield schools and Recreation Department.

These two beautiful parks are available for the use and enjoyment of all.

These are dates to remember if the horticultural beauty of the parks is to be enjoyed to the fullest:

	<i>First Bloom</i>	<i>Full Bloom</i>
Daffodil Plantation	April 10	April 19-25
Tulip Garden	April 26-May 12	May 1-18
Iris Garden		
Dwarf Early	April 15-25	May 1-15
Tall-Bearded		
and Siberians	May 10-15	May 18-30
Dogwood	April 23-May 6	April 30-May 20
Peony	May 20-25	May 25-June 7
Azalea Gardens		Blooming period April to June
Hybrid		
Rhododendrons	May 15-20	May 20-28
Hemerocallis	April into September	
Chrysanthemums	Mid-October to late November	

# THE PUBLIC LIBRARY—

## Treasure House with an Open Door

As an open door to the recorded thinking and experiences of past and present generations, the public library plays the unique role of mental stimulant and research center for the whole community.

More than seventy years old, the Plainfield Public Library first opened its door to the public in May, 1882. Its first quarters were a rented second floor on the south side of Front Street just east of Park Avenue, and its collection consisted of a few reference books and the current magazines.

Today the library consists of two connected buildings. The older one, on the corner of Park Avenue and Eighth Street, was presented by Job Male, the first mayor of Plainfield, in 1865. The adjoining structure, facing on College Place, was donated by Andrew Carnegie in 1912. These buildings house two large reading rooms for adults, a children's room, the library offices and workrooms, an art gallery, two public meeting rooms and approximately three miles of bookshelves.

In addition to the main buildings the library maintains three branches in school buildings, and on May 20th, 1954, it opened the East End Branch at 1104 E. Second Street. This branch carries about 2,000 books includ-

ing a special section for children.

The library receives an annual appropriation from the City of Plainfield, and an endowment fund of approximately \$42,000 brings in some additional income. Of the total income in 1953, over \$9,000 was spent on the purchase of new books, seventy-five per cent of which purchased adult books and twenty-five per cent juvenile books. Over 4,000 additions were made to the book collection the same year either by purchase or by gift.

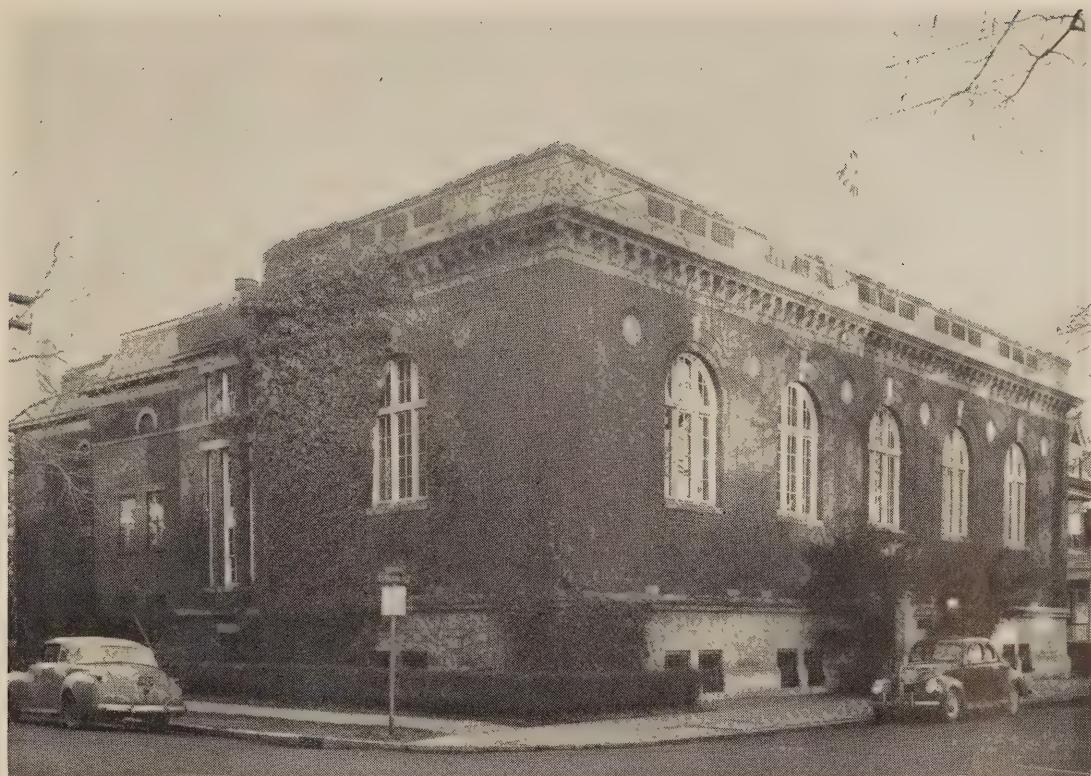
The library has well over 100,000 books, more than 7,000 music scores, 514 records, and a microfilm and microcard collection. It subscribes to 217 periodicals and 7 newspapers. The reference collection totals 21,222 volumes, the picture collection over 8,000, and the map collection 621. Through one of its endowment funds the library has an outstanding collection of books on American History and Government. The Science department is considered to be exceptional and the Art section well above average.

In 1945 the first microfilm reader was bought and in 1952 a second one was purchased. These machines are used by scientists and others and are available to the public at all times. The microfilm library is also sup-



WATCHUNG AVENUE TODAY

DICK GAINES



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ported by endowment funds, and the library has a complete file of the New York Times since 1944 in its microfilm library. It also has all available issues of Plainfield newspapers since 1837 on film.

Over 22,000 borrowers use the library, of which 6,205 are juveniles. The services of the library are free to anyone who lives or pays taxes in Plainfield, and non-residents may become subscribers upon payment of an annual fee of three dollars. Almost a thousand non-residents are subscribers, and in 1953 more than 3,000 new borrowers obtained cards. During 1953, 183,470 books were circulated, with fiction accounting for the largest group and applied science next in demand.

In the interest of public education and entertainment a program of documentary films covering a wide variety of subjects was recently initiated. Showings were well attended, and plans are made to continue the program. Each year at least two exhibitions are held in the gallery. These exhibits are especially planned for children and represent a continuing effort to reach as many different individ-

uals in the community as possible to acquaint them with the library and encourage their use of its facilities. The library also maintains a calendar of community events available to organizations in program planning.

The library is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council. This board appoints the Library Director. The daily work of the library is carried on by a staff of twelve full-time workers and eight part-time workers.

The main branch of the library is open Monday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From June 15th through September 15th it closes at noon on Saturdays. The Children's Room is open Monday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Every effort is being made to keep the library operating at peak performance, but growth in its membership and collections over the past forty years has put a severe strain on the existing buildings.

# EDUCATION—Building for the Future

Plainfield took an early lead in the State of New Jersey in providing public schools for its children. On August 16, 1847, Dr. Charles H. Stillman, sharing responsibility with a board of trustees, set up two school rooms in vacant shops on Front Street. These facilities promptly proved to be inadequate, and under Dr. Stillman's leadership the state legislature was petitioned to authorize the township to tax itself for public schools. Passed in March, 1848, this legislation was one of the first such laws enacted in the state.

## First Public School

Plainfield's first public school was opened late in the same year with an enrollment of 200 children and three instructors—a teaching principal and two teachers. Built at the corner of West Fourth Street and Arlington Avenue, the two-story frame building cost the township about \$3600, including furnishings!

By 1867 a second school was erected at West Fifth Street and Arlington Avenue, and this building served as Plainfield's high school for 37 years. Its first graduating class in 1870 numbered eight students. Following construction of the present high school building in 1904, the school housed elementary and special classes until 1951, when it was demolished. The new Stillman school now occupies the site of these first two public schools.

## Plainfield Schools Today

Eleven elementary schools and one high school now serve the city's 6,700 public school children. Within the past few years, two new schools, Clinton and Stillman, have been built to replace old buildings, and sizable additions have been made to the Cook and Barlow buildings. Erection of another school at Central Avenue is now under way. In addition, the obsolete Irving school (replaced by Clinton) is being used temporarily to house overflow or displaced classes.

Class rooms in the new buildings are of adequate size and equipment, and ventilation, light, heat and sanitary facilities are good. In the older schools, ranging in age from 27 to 69 years, an extensive rehabilitation and modernization program, recently inaugurated, is designed to correct the neglect of the depression and war years.

New construction, as well as the initial modernization program, are being financed by municipal borrowing. To complete the mod-

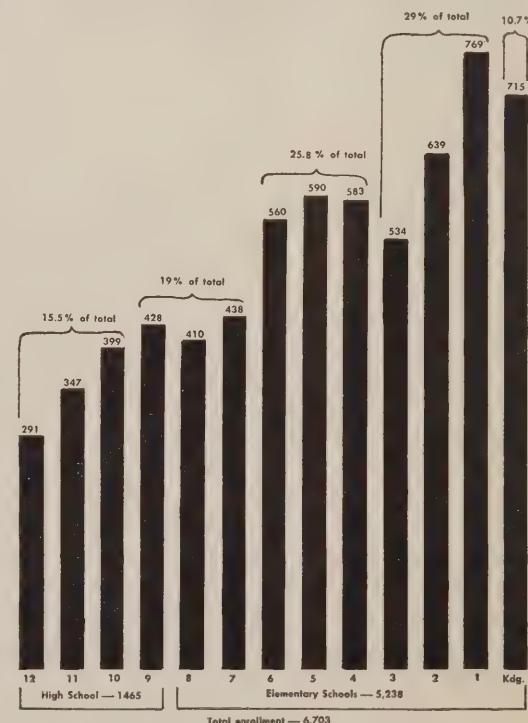
ernization, a five year, pay-as-you-go plan has been proposed, the first phase of which is included in the 1954-55 school budget.

## School Enrollment

In the past seven years, school population has jumped from 5,600 to last year's enrollment of 6,700. Based on current enrollments in lower grades and a census of pre-school children who intend to enter public schools, an enrollment of 8,700 is expected by 1960. To house these additional children, a further school expansion program is being planned.

## Self-Contained School District

Plainfield's Public School system is a self-contained school district and is under control of the city, existing in conformity with New Jersey state laws on education. Such laws set up two organizational types of school districts, and each self-contained district may choose by referendum at any time, the type under which it will operate. Chapter 6 districts dele-



Plainfield Public School Enrollment  
as of May, 1954

gate to their mayors the selection of Board of Education members and to their governing bodies the approval of public funds for school use. Chapter 7 districts elect their Boards of Education and approve funds for school use by popular vote.

Plainfield is a Chapter 6 district, an organizational form widely used by cities. Its five-member Board of Education is appointed by the mayor, without confirmation by the Common Council. Board members serve without pay for terms of five years. Regular meetings of the board, held the third Tuesday each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, 504 Madison Avenue, are open to the public.

#### Board of School Estimate

Responsibility for local financial support for the schools rests with the Board of School Estimate, a five-member body composed of the mayor, two councilmen selected by the council, and two school board members—traditionally the president and vice-president. They annually certify to the Common Council the amount of money necessary to operate the schools, and they also certify amounts necessary for school construction. Under certain circumstances, final responsibility for financial support passes from the Board of School Estimate to the Common Council. State prescribed procedures by which school funds are appropriated are described in the chapter devoted to local government.

The superintendent of schools is selected by the Board of Education and he is responsible for the administration of the schools. He makes recommendations in matters of educational policy and professional personnel to the Board of Education.

The business manager is selected by the Board of Education and he also acts as secretary to the board. He is in charge of school finances and records, purchasing, maintenance and use of all school buildings, and employment and direction of the custodial staff.

There is no supervision by the federal government over local schools, but the State Board of Education sets the standards for teachers and its building code controls the construction of all schools. The state also seeks to set certain minimum standards of instruction and it prescribes financial and accounting procedures.

A Union County superintendent of schools is appointed by the Commissioner of Education to serve as a liaison between the local Board of Education and the State Department of Education.

#### City Taxes Main Source of Money

Money to operate the schools comes primarily from three sources: city taxes on property, tuition charged to students living outside of Plainfield, and state aid. These amounts, budgeted for the year 1953-54, were:

City taxes .....	\$2,093,868*
Tuition .....	8,000
State Aid .....	104,429

(\*Includes \$122,874 raised locally for state equalization fund.)

Recent state legislation will provide additional state aid beginning with the school year 1955-56. Apportioned among school districts on the basis of enrollments and equalized assessed valuations, it is estimated that Plainfield's share will be about \$400,000.

#### The Annual Budget

The schools' annual budget is made for the fiscal year July 1 to June 30, and it is prepared more than six months in advance in order to be included in the municipal budget which is based on a calendar year. Budgets are prepared for the Board of Education by the superintendent and business manager, and estimated expenditures are based on recommendations of the school personnel. The Board of Education makes final revisions and submits the budget to the Board of School Estimate.

Expenditures for the year 1953-54 can be classified in this way:

Instruction .....	76 %
Operation of Buildings .....	16 %
Administration .....	3.4%
Auxiliary Services .....	3 %
Fixed Charges .....	1.6%

*Instruction* includes salaries of classroom teachers and instructional supplies, plus salaries and office expense of instructional supervisors.

*Operation of buildings* covers custodians' salaries and supplies, the cost of fuel, light, power, water and telephone service, plus ordinary maintenance of buildings and repair and replacement of furniture.

*Administration* includes salaries and expenses of the superintendent of schools and the business manager and their staffs, operation and maintenance of the administration building, and legal services.

*Auxiliary services* cover costs of the schools' health and attendance programs—doctors, dentist, nurses, and attendance supervisor. It also includes pupil transportation within the city, athletic equipment and team transportation, and the net cost of the high school cafeteria.

*Fixed charges* are made up of such items as insurance, workmen's compensation, and contributions to pension plans.

### **Salaries of the Teaching Staff**

Teacher's salaries are the largest item in the budget. There were 303 teachers in the year 1953-54 and their salaries ranged between \$3,000 and \$5,500. Average salary was \$4,242, and average length of service was 17 years.

For the school year 1954-55, the starting salary for Plainfield teachers with a bachelor's degree will be \$3,200 and the top salary (requiring a master's degree) will be \$5,900. There is no differential between salaries paid to elementary and high school teachers.

Nearly all of the school personnel belongs to the State Pension and Annuity Fund which allows retirement at 62 years of age or after 35 years of service. This fund is financed by employee, city and state contributions.

The cost of Plainfield's public schools in relation to total city taxes has been: ,

	Total Tax Rate	School Operation	School Debt Service
1943 .....	\$4.12	39.22%	6.688%
1948 .....	5.01	41.75%	5.809%
1953 .....	6.64	44.12%	6.024%
1954 .....	6.94	47.12%	5.475%

Plainfield's per pupil expenditure for the 1953-54 school year, based on average number of pupils in daily attendance, was \$347. This compares to estimated figures for the state of \$338 and the country as a whole of \$247.

### **State Law Requirements**

New Jersey state law requires that all children between the ages of seven and sixteen attend school unless they are physically or mentally unable to do so, and a minimum of 180 school days per year are required.

Home and behavior problems involving school attendance are handled by the attendance supervisor, who is a qualified school social worker.

### **Medical Staff**

The part-time services of two doctors and a dentist, together with a staff of four full-time nurses, carry out the schools' health program. All children are required to have health examinations and inoculations against small pox and diphtheria prior to kindergarten entrance. Thereafter, physical examinations are given each pupil by the school physician and dentist in kindergarten and grades 1, 4, 7, 9 and 11, and parents are notified of any

needed medical or dental attention. Such examinations include teeth, special tests for eyes and ears, and patch tests for tuberculosis at high school age. For those who need such help, a dental clinic is maintained at Stillman school.

Twelve hundred hot lunches are served daily in the high school cafeteria. Because of rising food costs, this formerly self-sustaining program may have to be partially subsidized by school funds.

### **Physical Education**

State law requires that every pupil receive two and a half hours of physical education a week. Of this, thirty minutes may be devoted to instruction in hygiene. A director supervises physical education for the whole school system and he is assisted by a staff of especially trained teachers. Such activities include, at suitable age levels, games, group dancing, softball, baseball, basketball, football, soccer, swimming, wrestling, track, tennis, archery, etc. Competitive sports constitute the after-school athletic program, which starts in the fifth grade.

Gymnasiums and play areas for physical education are provided in all schools, but vary widely in adequacy of size or equipment. The high school's athletic field of 21 acres, with bleachers to seat 4,000, is equipped for football, baseball, softball, tennis and track. The swimming pool at the high school was one of the first in the state.

Behind-the-wheel driver training is provided in high school, with dual control cars furnished by different members of the Plainfield Automotive Trades Association.

### **Art and Music**

Special subject teachers give instruction in art and music. Training in group singing and music appreciation is provided at all grade levels, and musical instrument instruction and opportunities for participation in bands and orchestras are offered beginning with the fourth grade. Creative art instruction includes, at appropriate age levels, drawing, painting, ceramics, fabric-printing, and all types of handcrafts.

### **The Child as an Individual**

The objective of Plainfield's school system is to develop each child to his fullest individual capacity so that he may, with or without further formal education, take his place as a responsible citizen of the community, contributing his best to its social, economic and political life.



THE CLINTON SCHOOL

To this end, a supervisor of student testing and a school psychologist direct a program to discover and develop a pupil's natural interests and talents. The testing program, which includes aptitude as well as performance tests, starts in kindergarten and continues through the twelfth grade.

The value of a guidance program is particularly evident as a pupil reaches high school age and faces the planning of his adult career. High school counselors schedule conferences each spring with every eighth grade student, his parents and teachers. Using the test records, the counselor helps the pupil and his parents choose the high school studies which will best develop his individual interests, capacities, and future plans. The guidance team also includes a placement officer who acts as a liaison between employers seeking personnel and students wishing employment.

#### Elementary Grades

All classes in elementary schools from kindergarten through grade 6 have one basic teacher for instruction in academic subjects. Special subject teachers assist in art, music, and physical education. Six remedial reading teachers help students on an individual basis with reading problems.

Classes in grades 7 and 8 are departmentalized, meeting with different teachers for dif-

ferent subjects. Manual and home arts are introduced in these grades, too.

There are five special classes for retarded or handicapped students where appropriate instruction is given in small groups.

The eleven elementary schools are supervised by six principals, and teachers act as vice-principals where necessary.

A program to improve and coordinate subject material and methods of teaching language arts, mathematics, social studies and science was begun a few years ago. For elementary schools, this program will be continued under the supervision of a recently appointed coordinator of elementary education.

#### High School

The secondary school curriculum provides a basic core of subjects for all pupils. This core includes four years of English, two years of American history, and physical education and health. Beyond this core of required subjects, a student may choose from a wide range of electives in accordance with his abilities and needs.

About forty per cent of each year's high school graduating class enters four-year colleges, and another ten per cent attend other schools of higher learning—junior colleges, nurses' training schools, trade schools, etc. For these students, the academic program offers

the necessary training in science, mathematics, history, English and foreign languages.

The fifty per cent of students who do not plan on attending college may choose electives to give them a general education or to prepare them for business or industrial employment, or they may choose a major in such fields as music, fine arts, or home arts.

The general education program aims to prepare the pupil for good human relations and citizenship, and such students may elect any course offered by the school provided his counselors and parents agree that he will profit from it.

Business education courses offer complete training in three fields: secretarial, bookkeeping and clerical. Secretarial and clerical students receive training in the operation of all types of office machines, in addition to the usual areas of typewriting and stenography.

For training in industrial arts, the school has six well-equipped shops: woodworking, metal work, machine shop, electricity, auto mechanics, and printing, and there is also a well-equipped drafting room.

Instruction in cooking and sewing is offered in the home arts courses and a three-room furnished apartment provides practice in home-making.

Fundamentals and history of art are available to students who wish to major in fine arts, and specialized training in creative art offers preparation for advanced study in art schools and colleges.

In the area of music, there are regular offerings in voice training, music appreciation, and fundamentals of music and harmony. The band and orchestra meet every day for rehearsal and play at various school and civic functions throughout the year. Five different vocal groups provide training for from two to three hundred pupils each year.

Opportunities for student self-expression are varied and popular. The sixty-odd clubs of the high school are youthful replicas of community organizations: sports, curriculum, leisure time, literature, music, dramatics, and service.

The Student Council develops responsibility and leadership, and gives experience in democratic procedures. A clearing-house for student opinion, it helps to identify and solve many school problems and promotes good student-faculty relations. In addition to its school activities, the council is active in a number of community organizations.

Although the high school enrollment currently exceeds 1,500, it is possible to develop each student as an individual because of (a)

the guidance and testing service; (b) ability groupings which challenge each pupil to the limit of his capacity while allowing the possibility of mastering his work; (c) the varied curricular and extra-curricular offerings; and (d) the quality of the instructional staff.

The holding power of the high school is steadily improving. Ten years ago only sixty per cent of those entering remained to graduate. Today the figure is seventy-five per cent.

### **Parent and Public Groups**

Many community organizations are interested in public education and lend their interest and support in a variety of ways. Each school has an active Parent-Teacher Association and the Plainfield Association for the Public Schools functions on a city-wide basis. The Chamber of Commerce of the Plainfields promotes better understanding between business men and the schools' professional staff. Many organizations offer scholarships to deserving high school graduates and other groups work directly with the student body.

### **Public Use of School Buildings**

The schools, too, serve the community in other than the traditional manner. Their physical facilities are in constant community use and their staff members actively contribute to the religious, cultural, social, and civic life of Plainfield. The high school auditorium serves as the city's community center where many groups present programs of cultural and civic interest. The smaller auditoriums of the elementary schools are constantly used for varied purposes. School playgrounds and gymnasiums double as recreation centers for summer and evening programs instituted by the city's Recreation Commission. In addition, the Board of Education and the Recreation Commission jointly conduct the Adult Evening School where varied courses meet adult demands for instruction in recreational and academic fields.

### **Private Schools**

Early records indicate the existence of at least two private schools in Plainfield prior to the establishment of the first public school. In the 1830's, the Plainfield Seminary for boys and girls included boarding facilities at \$2.25 a week, and former Mayor L. V. F. Randolph recalled for posterity in 1906 how he attended the Mauriac School in his early youth because there were no public schools.

Today these private schools in Plainfield serve almost 1,800 children and youth.

*Co-operative Nursery School* is supported



THE PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

by tuition and operated by participating parents who assist two state-certified nursery school teachers. It is non-sectarian and admits children three and four years of age. The sessions are from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and approximately 36 children attend. It is located in the Red Cross building at 209 Berckman Avenue.

*Drake College* is a business college offering courses in typewriting, stenography, executive secretarial work, and junior, comprehensive and higher accounting. It is supported by tuition and is co-ed and non-sectarian. There are day and evening sessions with a faculty of six instructing approximately 125 students. It is located at 40 Somerset Street.

*Hartridge School* is a country day school for girls. It is supported by tuition and is non-sectarian. It consists of nursery through high school departments and courses are offered in college preparatory and general education. There is a faculty of 22 and current enrollment is about 175. It is located at 1040 Plainfield Avenue.

*Plainfield Academy* is a boarding school for young people of the Seventh-day Adventist church. It is supported by tuition and by the church and teaches grades 9 through 12. It offers commercial and general education courses and prepares young people for medical and evangelical missionary work. 90% of the students are self-supporting by arrangement with

neighboring homes and stores. There is a faculty of 7 teachers with a current enrollment of about 60 students. It is located at 622 W. Eighth Street.

*St. Bernard's School* is a Roman Catholic parochial school supported by the Parish. It is tuition free and comprises grades 1 through 8. There are 8 teachers on the staff and approximately 380 students attend. It is located at 380 Sumner Avenue.

*St. Mary's School* is a Roman Catholic parochial school supported by the Parish. It is tuition free and teaches kindergarten through the eighth grade. There are seventeen teachers with a student body of approximately 800 students. It is located at 513 W. Sixth Street.

*Wardlaw School* is a country day school for boys. It is supported by tuition and is non-sectarian. Offering college preparatory courses, it comprises grades 1 through 12, and has a faculty of seventeen and a current enrollment of 147 boys. It is located at 1030 Central Avenue. A nursery department for boys and girls, three and four years of age, is maintained at 1038 Park Avenue.

*Yeshiva Institute* is a school for children of the Jewish faith. It is supported by tuition and teaches grades 1 through 5. There is a faculty of ten with a current enrollment of about 85 students. It is located at 526 W. Seventh Street.

## PLAINFIELD PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF INCOME	ADMINISTRATION
BOARD OF HEALTH City Hall	N. J. law of 1880 requires a Board of Health in every municipality. N. J. law of 1887 decrees how local boards shall be organized, defines local authority, and requires that state laws be enforced.	Common Council grants funds for Board of Health, although the State supervises the running of the board. The Board of Health set up its own salary schedule in 1953.	Mayor appoints a 5-man Board of Health, subject to Common Council confirmation, to serve 5-year terms without pay. Doctors, laymen or women may serve. Health Officer is appointed by the board.
PLAINFIELD HUMANE SOCIETY Rock Avenue		Under annual municipal contract since 1933. Budget based on income from dog license fees.	Manager Director

## PLAINFIELD PRIVATE HEALTH SERVICES

	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF INCOME	ADMINISTRATION
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY Little Red Door 510 Arlington Avenue	Established in 1948 by the American Cancer Society, Union County Chapter of N. J. Division.	Supported by public funds raised during month of April,—designated Cancer Fund-Raising Month by Act of Congress.	Executive Committee of volunteers receives county and state supervision from the American Cancer Society.
MATERNAL HEALTH CENTER 232 East Front Street	Established as health agency in Plainfield 20 years ago. Member Council of Social Agencies.	50% clinic receipts. 50% voluntary contributions	Plainfield League for Planned Parenthood and medical advisory board.
MENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC OF UNION COUNTY 111 East Front Street	Formed in 1944 as a demonstration clinic for all of Union County. Six communities support the clinic and receive mental hygiene services.	Contributing communities; Mental Health Act funds; patients' fees. Community Chest provides about 20% of clinic budget. 1953 Budget—App. \$50,000	Board of Trustees administers clinic through Medical Director.
MUHLENBERG HOSPITAL Randolph Road	N. J. Charter granted 1877. Opened 1881. N. J. Board of Nursing, National League for Nursing give authority for School of Nursing. State nursing exams used.	Non-profit. Fees of patients. Public and private subscriptions make up annual deficit and provide capital funds.	Board of 30 governors, elected by Board of Governors. Five public representatives automatically on board.
PLAINFIELD RESCUE SQUAD 700 West 7th Street	Founded by 40 men in 1951. Member of N.J. First Aid Council and International Rescue and First Aid Association.	Contributions from the general public.	Board of Management of 12: organization officers, captain and 6 members elected from membership.
VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION 703 Watchung Avenue	Set up under its own constitution and by-laws, and incorporated in N. J. in 1915. Operates on contract basis with public and private agencies in Union, Somerset, and Middlesex counties.	Fees and contracts 29% Tax funds and school funds 43% Community Chests 28% 1953 Income: \$77,522	1 Director 2 Supervisors 5 advisory doctors 25 lay officers and trustees comprise a board governing policy.

## --- GUARDIANS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH

PERSONNEL	FUNCTIONS
Health officer Vital statistics registrar 2 sanitarians 1 plumbing inspector 1 laboratory technician 3 office staff Also 2 part-time doctors, one for parochial schools and one for Veneral Disease Clinic.	Registration of vital statistics. Operation of laboratory at City Hall for testing of milk, food, blood, etc. Inspection and control of insects, rodents, water, food places, sewage, housing, plumbing conditions. Maternal, child and adult health services, supervision of 7 Baby "Keep-Well" stations, parochial school health supervision. Control of communicable diseases. Board of Health cooperates with but has no direct supervision over many public and private agencies which aid health. Included among these are: Board of Education; City Physician; Civil Defense; Community Chest; Elks work with crippled children; Joint Sewage Disposal; Lions Club work with blind; Little Red Door; Mental Hygiene Society; Muhlenberg Hospital clinics; Plainfield Hearing Society; Red Cross; Rescue Squad; Sanitation Dept.; Union County TB & Health League, and Visiting Nurses Assn.
Manager Director Warden	Patrols streets for strays and lost dogs. Places unclaimed dogs in homes. Conducts Anti-Rabies Clinics under supervision of Board of Health. Cares for about 1300 dogs a year.

PERSONNEL	FUNCTIONS AND GOALS	PLAINFIELD AREA RESIDENTS AIDED IN 1953
All volunteer	Provide motor corps services; payment for bedside nursing care; medications and supplies for the indigent; clinic care. Promote support for research and educational programs.	About 200. Impossible to estimate number who have been helped by educational programs.
2 women physicians 1 executive secretary (RN with public health experience 2 Junior League volunteers	Child-spacing service. Infertility service for childless couples. Education for marriage. Research in human reproduction. Goal is betterment of community health and enhancement of stability of families.	483
Medical Director & Chief Psychiatrist Psychiatrist Clinical Psychologist 3 psychiatric social workers 3 office staff	Psychiatric treatment and child guidance services in which professional staff works as a team to help people recognize and solve their emotional difficulties. Goal is to prevent serious emotional illnesses by making early aid available.	411
180 physicians 81 student nurses 600 paid personnel, including 132 graduate nurses (80% of requirements).	Care of injured and sick (425 beds); 16 clinics: Medical, Surgical, Dental, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Orthopedic, Pediatric, Pre-Natal, Post Natal, Gynecological, Skin, Health, Genito-Urinary, Neurological, Diagnostic, Cardiac. Also Physio-therapy treatments. Accident ward, school of nursing.	16,237 patients treated in 1953. Of these, 5,320 were Plainfield residents.
Volunteers. Requirements are good health and training in first aid. Present number is 92.	Provide emergency first aid and ambulance service 24 hours a day. Render aid to sick, injured, and disabled. Save life regardless of race, color or creed. Assist in disaster when called upon by another community.	Approximately 1800.
Director 2 Supervisors 16 registered nurses 1 practical nurse 3 clerks	Care to all regardless of race, color, creed or ability to pay. Fathers and mothers classes on baby care and operation of Baby "Keep-Well" stations; teaching visits to homes (8080 in 1952); heart and VD clinic service; isolation of communicable diseases; health tests in 14 public and private schools in area (parochial only in Plainfield); general nursing service visits to provide bedside care in homes.	24,368 home visits. Of these, 15,168 were in Plainfield. 1,145 hours at "Well-Baby" Stations. 2,452 hours of school nursing.

## PLAINFIELD'S PUBLIC WELFARE SERVICES

	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF INCOME	ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL WELFARE DEPT. 48 Rock Avenue	State Dept. of Institutions and Agencies, Division of Welfare, Bureau of Assistance	60% from the city 40% from the state  1953 Budget: \$36,000	Local Assistance Board composed of 5 members. (1 member must be a woman; councilman is chairman.) Director is appointed.
JUVENILE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE	State Legislation (1947)	Municipal Budget	3 members appointed by Judge of Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.
YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL OF PLAINFIELD	State Legislation (1947)		7 members: Chairman, 1 School Dept., 1 Police Dept., 1 councilman, 4 at-large.

## COUNTY AND STATE WELFARE BOARDS SERVICING COMMUNITY NEEDS

	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF INCOME	ADMINISTRATION
UNION COUNTY WELFARE BOARD Court House Elizabeth, N. J.	Established Public Laws 1931, 1936, 1938. Supervised and audited by State Bureau of Assistance for conformity with laws, regulations, and policies.	1954 Budget—\$1,070,061 Federal government participates up to \$35 in all cases, beyond that the State and County participate according to type of case.	Board consists of 5 citizen members appointed by Board of Chosen Freeholders, plus 2 Freeholders and County Adjustor (ex-officio), when not serving as Welfare Director.
N. J. BOARD OF CHILD WELFARE Court House Elizabeth, N. J.	Set up under the Child Welfare Law of 1952. Supervised and audited by the Division of Institutions and Agencies for conformity with laws and policies.	1953 Budgets: Federal Aid to Dependent Children—\$433,000 Guardianship—\$167,000 Care and Custody—\$8,000 (50% County aid 50% State aid)	Administered by Board of Managers composed of 7 unsalaried persons appointed by the State Board of Control of the Dept. of Institutions and Agencies, subject to confirmation by the Governor. They serve for three-year terms.

### Garbage and Sewage Disposal

One of the most pressing health problems in all growing cities is the disposal of waste products: garbage, rubbish and sewage.

In Plainfield the disposal of garbage and rubbish is handled by private scavengers who rent land outside of the city for dumps. All garbage trucks are periodically inspected by the Health Department and they must be licensed by the Health Department. These private scavengers presently handle the garbage effectively, but existing dumps are filling rapidly and the municipalities in which they are located object to them. Since no available tract in Plainfield is considered large enough

for a dump, the city is faced with the pressing health problem of finding an adequate disposal area for future use. The collection of rubbish is controlled through the issuing of licenses by the City Clerk.

Domestic sewage and industrial wastes are carried off from the homes, factories and other buildings in the community through a system of underground pipes. These are termed sanitary sewers and in 1953 Plainfield had approximately 100 miles of them, all of which require periodic cleaning. The sewers which carry away excess rain waters are called storm sewers and in 1953 Plainfield had approximately 41 miles of them. These public

## WE ARE OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER

PERSONNEL	FUNCTIONS	PLAINFIELD RESIDENTS AIDED IN 1953
Director 2 case workers 2 office staff College degree or equivalent required for executives and professionals.	Public assistance to people not eligible for county or state aid. (Assistance includes food, shelter, clothing and heat.) Rehabilitative case work referrals from the Municipal Court. Assistance to non-support cases.	111
1 social investigator	Help rehabilitate maladjusted and delinquent children. Investigates referrals from Judge of Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Following individual conferences with the child, makes recommendations to the Court.	
	To study, coordinate, and integrate the youth service organizations of the community, with the goal of creating better community relations and improving facilities and necessary guidance.	

PERSONNEL	FUNCTIONS
26 persons, including 10 case workers and 2 case-work supervisors. College degree or equivalent required for executives and professionals. Staff must be qualified under civil service.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Old Age Assistance—Determines eligibility of applicants and issues monthly checks for old age assistance.</li> <li>2. Totally and Permanently Disabled—Same procedure as above.</li> <li>3. Assistance to the Blind—Receives applications, makes investigations, and submits recommendations as to eligibility to the State Commission for the Blind. (The State Commission administers assistance programs, and services the blind through medical attention; education; vocational training and placement; rehabilitation.</li> <li>4. Federal Aid to Dependent Children (Home Life Assistance)—Receives recommendations for grants of aid to dependent children from State Board of Child Welfare, reviews their findings and recommendations, issues order of assistance.</li> </ol>
Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor, 1 Child Welfare Analyst, 9 case workers, 1 senior clerk and 4 clerks. College degree or equivalent required for executives and professionals. Staff must be qualified under civil service.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Federal Aid to Dependent Children (Home Life Assistance)—In cooperation with Union County Welfare Board, orders payments for children in need, living with parents or relatives, whose fathers have deserted or are dead, physically or mentally ill, imprisoned, deported, etc.</li> <li>2. Guardianship—Provides supervised, long-term foster home care for children committed by court action as adjudged delinquents, or whose parents are adjudged improper guardians.</li> <li>3. Care and Custody—Counsels parents who voluntarily seek help with their children's problems. Provides foster home care when necessary at the request of parents. Renders investigational services in private adoptions when ordered by court; places children for adoption when parents consent; advises families who wish to adopt. Acts in cases involving the interstate placement of children, when so ordered by the Dept. of Institutions and Agencies. Gives case-work services to children when no private agency is available.</li> </ol>

sewers serve 99.7% of the homes in Plainfield. The remaining 0.3% of the homes use septic tanks, which may only be installed with the permission of the Health Department.

Building and maintenance of Plainfield's sewerage systems are directed by the Department of Public Works under the jurisdiction of the Common Council. Additions to the sanitary and storm sewers are made periodically as new areas of the city are developed, so that some of these facilities are entirely new while others date back to their original installations.

To protect the public health, all sewage must be treated in a sewage disposal plant. The present sewerage system is a closed one

leading to a disposal plant located in Middlesex Borough. This is a joint plant used by Dunellen, North Plainfield and Plainfield. Though this plant is adequate for the present needs of these communities, expansion or improvement might prove quite costly.

The new Middlesex County Sewerage Authority was created in 1950 and Plainfield became a member in 1953. This group will provide a new trunk sewer to a new disposal plant and is expected to be in use in 1957. It is also anticipated that sink disposal units will be feasible under the new system, which may contribute to the solution of the garbage disposal problem.

# PLAINFIELD'S PRIVATE WELFARE SERVICES

	SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF INCOME	ADMINISTRATION
AMERICAN RED CROSS Plainfield-No. Plainfield Chapter 209 Berckman Street	American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C.	Voluntary contributions.	Board of Directors (presently 40 members)
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA Watchung Area Council, Inc., 133 E. Sixth St.	Chartered by Act of Congress in 1916	Plainfield Community Chest.	President Treasurer Scout Executive Executive Board
GIRL SCOUTS OF U.S.A. Plainfield Area 703 Watchung Avenue	Chartered by Girl Scouts of United States of America. Formed in 1912.	Plainfield Community Chest.	5 organization officers. Standing committee chairmen. Community chairman.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER 403 West 7th Street	Originally organized 1906. Reactivated by veterans following World War I. Present building opened in 1930. Member National Jewish Welfare Board.	Community Chest 27% Membership 33% Other sources 40% 1953 Budget—\$51,988	Board of Directors elected by membership. Comprises 6 officers plus committees and professional staff.
KINGS DAUGHTERS DAY NURSERY 502 West Front Street Mellick House 519 North Avenue	Organized in 1906.	Community Chest Fees paid by parents. Contributions from 16 Circles of Kings Daughters.	Board of Trustees — Officers and 2 trustees from each Circle. Executive Board of 7 officers and 14 committee chairmen.
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 533 South Second Street	Organized in 1942 and maintained for 4 years by Crescent Ave. Church Guild as an experimental aid. Present agency incorporated in 1947 by interested group organized by mayor and council.	Private contributions only.	Board of Directors of 15 members, including 1 each from Junior League and Council of Church Women, 3 members from city at-large, 3 from Plainfield Community Council, 3 from neighborhood area.
COMMUNITY CHEST OF PLAINFIELD AND NORTH PLAINFIELD, INC. 703 Watchung Avenue	Incorporated in 1919 by an Act of the N. J. Legislature.	Contributions from annual fund-raising campaign.	Board of Trustees of 21 members, selected to represent the geographic, economic, religious, racial, cultural, etc. interests of the community.
PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL 703 Watchung Avenue	Organized in 1932 by the agencies of the Plainfield Community Chest.	Plainfield Community Chest	Executive Committee, of which officers are elected by membership.
THE SALVATION ARMY 615 Watchung Avenue	Founded in England. In United States 80 years. In Plainfield over 60 years.	Budget 1953—\$30,000. 2/3 raised by Salvation Army. 1/3 raised by Plainfield Community Chest.	Headquarters in New York and Newark. Local Advisory Board of local citizens.
UNITED FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY 703 Watchung Avenue	Incorporated 1942—a merger of 3 agencies.	Operating income 60% Endowment income 20% Community Chest 20% 1953 Budget—approx. \$50,000	Board of 21 Directors and trustees (rotating terms).
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION Central Branch 518 Watchung Avenue Moorland Branch 644 West Fourth Street	Incorporated in 1872 by Act of N. J. Legislature. Chartered as member of National Council of YMCAs of North America. Moorland Branch opened in 1923.	1953 Income: \$90,116. Members dues and services \$64,316 Community Chest 25,800 Moorland Branch budget 1953—\$22,923. 54% from Community Chest.	Board of Directors (all members) elected annually by membership. Moorland Branch—Board of 24 members selected and re-elected by membership.
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION 232 East Front Street 300 East Fifth Street	Incorporated in 1907 by Act of N. J. Legislature.	1953 Income: \$76,839. Member's dues, classes, and individual gifts \$46,539 Community Chest 30,300	Board of Directors of 30 (all members) elected annually by membership. Programs and finances of two buildings co-ordinated.

PERSONNEL	FUNCTIONS AND GOALS	PLAINFIELD AREA RESIDENTS AIDED IN 1953
Executive Director Home Service Director Home Service Office Manager and Intake Worker Nutrition Director Secretary Part-time bookkeeper  Six executives Five office staff	Aid the work of American National Red Cross —in time of war, furnishing relief to the service forces and their dependents. —in time of peace, responding to general appeals for relief and providing systematic relief in disasters.	Numerous individuals and groups served through trained volunteer services and educational services. (Nutrition, first aid, water safety, and home nursing.)
General Director 2 Field Directors 2 office staff	To bring scouting program to all boys between 8 and 21.	1150 boys.
Executive Director Program Director Athletic Director 2 office staff	To bring scouting program to all girls between 7 and 17.	2352 girls.
Professional staff of Executive Director, Secretary, Registered Nurse, Caseworker, and 9 teachers. Maintenance staff of 6.  Professional Director and assistant. Volunteers "with an understanding of the needs of the people they serve and with a warmth and generosity toward them."	To provide a complete recreational, cultural, and social program for children, adolescents, and adults in the community. Members range from 4 to 80 years of age. Building serves as meeting place for numerous clubs and organizations.	Total attendance at all functions about 64,000 (including group meetings).
Executive Director 2 office staff (1 part-time)	To provide a day-care program for pre-school children whose parents are unable to provide adequate care and supervision during the day. To provide an environment which will supplement, but not supplant, home and mother.	155 children served from 135 families.
Executive Director Secretary (both part-time)  Senior-Captain and assistant. 4 part-time employees.	To provide a settlement house—a "living room away from home" where children can learn to be good citizens by group play experiences under informed guidance. "To provide a well-rounded program which will help meet the recreational, educational, and social needs of the men, women, and children . . . to the end that their personal lives may be enriched." Program is assisted by contacts with the home.	80 to 100 daily.
Executive Director 6 case workers (graduates of approved schools of social work) 2 office staff	"To provide an agency through which worthy charitable relief, social welfare, and like activities of general community concern may unite in their appeals to the public for financial support." To determine what agencies may join the Community Chest appeal. To allot contributions among the participating agencies. To coordinate community welfare work generally.	Directly or indirectly, all of Plainfield.
Central Branch General Secretary Boys Physical and Program Secretary Director of Physical Education Youth and Boys Work Director & Assistant Aquatic Director.	To coordinate the existing Community Chest agencies with other community welfare and service groups to aid in community welfare planning.	Directly or indirectly, all of Plainfield.
Executive Director Adult Program Director Y-Teen Program Director Special staff for practical nursing, physically handicapped and sight handicapped program; swimming.	Religious and charitable welfare work carried on with Christian motive. Family and transient services; camping for underprivileged children; aid to unmarried mothers.	292 families given material relief. Numerous others given service and counsel. 228 transient and homeless individuals.
Executive Director Adult Program Director Y-Teen Program Director Special staff for practical nursing, physically handicapped and sight handicapped program; swimming.	To promote better family life through prevention of, and help for poor personal inter-relationships. Aid in enabling people to face personal and social problems. Family counselling, foster care, adoptions.	421 families through approximately 6000 interviews and visits.
Executive Director Adult Program Director Y-Teen Program Director Special staff for practical nursing, physically handicapped and sight handicapped program; swimming.	To give the individual opportunity for spiritual, physical, and mental growth. Program of informal and character education through physical activities, purpose clubs, and recreation as a means of "developing wholesome personality and building a Christian society."	2458 members enrolled in 1953. 177,552 recorded attendance at all activities. 4345 class, club, and group sessions.
Executive Director Adult Program Director Y-Teen Program Director Special staff for practical nursing, physically handicapped and sight handicapped program; swimming.	To give the individual opportunity for spiritual, physical, and mental growth. A character building program of classes, clubs, and recreational activities. Cooperation with other community agencies in community services.	2500 members. 90-125 daily lunches served. 200 teenagers in Canteen each week.

Quotations are from organization's constitution or by-laws.

## Water Supply

Maintaining a water supply sufficient to meet year round demand is an increasing problem in most growing communities. Water shortages during periods of hot, dry weather are not unique to Plainfield; reports indicate that similar conditions exist in one out of ten cities of over 10,000 population throughout the country.

Except for a few private wells servicing certain homes, businesses and institutions, Plainfield's water is supplied by the Plainfield-Union Water Company. Plainfield represents slightly more than 25% of the total population served by the company. The water is tested for purity both locally and by the state and normally requires no chemical treatment. Annual payment for water supplied to the city for fire-fighting purposes is computed on the basis of inch-feet of water mains involved, plus the cost of leasing the water company's fire hydrants. Rates, effective April 1, 1954, are \$1.72 per 100 inch-feet of mains (there are over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million inch-feet) and \$10.50 per fire hydrant for 612 hydrants. Total payment in 1954 will be \$67,558.

Established in 1869, the Plainfield-Union Water Company presently serves an area comprising about 185,000 persons in 19 communities. The company's main pumping station is at the Netherwood well field in the east end of Plainfield and approximately a third of its wells are located there. The other wells owned by the company are in Green Brook, Kenilworth, Scotch Plains, South Plainfield, Mountainside, North Plainfield (leased) and Westfield. At the end of 1952, the company's distribution system comprised 451 miles of pipe having a weighted average diameter of 7.2 inches. Its storage system capacity (including the 9 million gallon Scotch Plains reservoir) is approximately 12 million gallons—about 75% of an average day's supply. At times of peak demand the company supplements its own sources of supply by purchases of water from the Middlesex and Elizabethtown water companies.

Water requirements of the area have increased rapidly since 1940 and a continuing rise is anticipated. This is due not only to population and industrial growth but to a steadily increasing rate of use per person. Between 1940 and 1953, area population increased over 50%, and the rate of consumption jumped from 66 gallons per person per day to 78.

To meet the increasing demand the water

company has almost tripled its own output since 1940. Such expansion, together with the decreasing amounts of water available for purchase from neighboring companies, has resulted in a proportionate drop in the use of purchased water. Water purchased in 1942 represented 37% of total water supplied; the figure for 1953 was 12%. At present there is available by purchase, when necessary, about 25% of the daily demand.

The water company's franchise, granted by the State of New Jersey, gives it the right to obtain water from any sources in Union, Middlesex, Essex, Morris and Somerset counties. Such rights, however, are subject to limitations imposed by the Division of Water Policy and Supply of the State of New Jersey, Department of Conservation and Economic Development. All new supply sources, as well as all increases in volume drawn from sources already in use, are subject to approval of the Water Policy and Supply Division. So plans for local expansion are always restricted by the needs of other communities in the region and must conform to the limitations imposed by over-all state policy. Many requests by the local water company for increases in supplies have been severely curtailed or postponed by such state policy. On the other hand, the company has never exercised its grant to divert specific amounts from the Millstone and Raritan Rivers.

Through its Board of Public Utilities Commissioners, the state exercises additional control over water supply companies. Increases in rates must receive the Board's approval before becoming effective. The company's first increase in rates in 25 years was approved by this Board in March, 1954.

The Inter-Municipal Water Committee, organized in 1953 and composed of officials of various communities supplied by the Plainfield-Union Water Company, is in close touch with the operations and planning of the company and has financed engineering studies to assist in assuring adequate supplies.

The Plainfield Area Water Supply Committee, representing neighboring communities, has been active since 1950 as a planning and advisory agency devoted to assuring Plainfield and the immediate vicinity a continuing adequate supply of water.

State legislation intended to provide a long range solution to New Jersey's water supply problem has been proposed but not passed. Such legislation proposes the construction of two huge reservoirs, one in Hunterdon County at Round Valley and one in South Jersey.

# THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES—

## The Men Behind The Badge

At the June 24th, 1870 meeting of the Plainfield Common Council the office of Police Chief was created by ordinance and two assistants were authorized. The Police Chief was to receive a salary of \$600 a year and his assistants \$500 each a year. To facilitate their work, the Mayor was instructed by the August 15th meeting of the Council to purchase "18 pea whistles, such as are used by the New York Police Department, and 3 badges marked "Police" and 15 badges marked "Special Police".

### The Plainfield Police Department

The Plainfield Police Department has specific duties: Preserve the peace; enforce all laws; protect life and property; prevent and detect crime; and arrest violators. The efficiency with which they do this can best be judged by the fact that for many years no organized crime has been able to gain a foothold in the city due to the Department's constant vigilance.

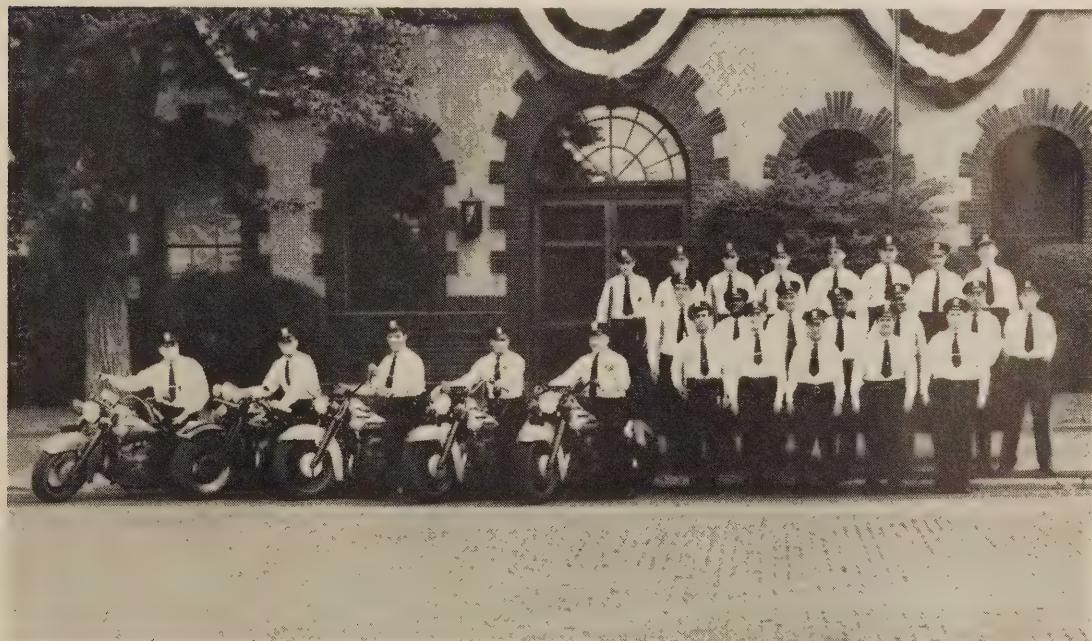
With headquarters located at 402 Cleve-

land Avenue, which also houses the city jail, the policing staff numbers 76, of which 16 are officers, 2 are detectives and 57 are patrolmen. In addition there are 3 clerks, and 26 civilian employees, including school guards, the parking meter maintenance staff, and the street-marking and sign-repair employees. While there are no policewomen there is a matron who is available when necessary.

The Police Department is under the control of the Board of Police, consisting of four members of the Common Council and the Mayor. The Chief of Police is executive head of the Department, subordinate to the Police Board and the Common Council. The Board makes the recommendations to the Common Council.

There are four main divisions of the Department: Traffic, Detective, Identification and Uniform.

The Traffic Division is responsible for the three E's of good traffic management—Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. While the Department does not retain its own Civil



THE PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Engineer, when a traffic problem arises, the State Civil Engineer may be called in. This division keeps all records pertaining to traffic accidents and violations occurring within the city.

In cooperation with the local school system, a year-round educational program in traffic safety is conducted. Free driver-training courses are offered in the high school with the cooperation of automobile dealers who supply dual control cars. The psycho-physical testing instruments of the Department are used in these courses. Lectures and motion pictures add to the safety education program for students.

A safety and school traffic division of 500 boys and girls serve as patrol at the various school crossings. Fifteen men are employed on a part-time basis to guard the most dangerous school crossings.

Under a municipal ordinance which requires licensing of bicycles, the Police Department inspects and issues the licenses, giving to each owner a set of rules governing safe operation.

The Department has its own Identification Bureau with several thousand prints in its files. The law requires that all persons arrested and charged with indictable offenses must be fingerprinted. The Identification Bureau works in close cooperation with all law enforcing agencies in the area and state and with the FBI.

The city is patrolled with cars equipped with two-way radios and by foot patrol.

The Police Department works in close cooperation with the Youth Guidance Council, created in accordance with state statute in 1947, and composed of one member of the Police Department and six civilians appointed by the Mayor. It also cooperates with the Traffic and Parking Commission, a group appointed by the Mayor and composed of twelve civilians, including a member of the Common Council. The Police Lieutenant serving on this Commission is the only member who is not appointed by the Mayor.

The Department's equipment includes 6 cars, radio equipped and one Voice of Safety car. It also has 5 motorcycles, 2 electric speed timers and 2 Drunkometers.

Police applicants must be between 21 and 30 years of age, citizens of the United States and residents of the city for at least two years. They must be in perfect physical condition, at least five feet, seven inches tall and 150 pounds in weight, with at least two years of high school or the equivalent thereof. Policemen are selected by Civil Service competitive examination and must serve a three month

probationary period, after which the Police Chief can recommend permanent appointment.

The Police Department conducts its own initial training school in Plainfield and each new member is given a ten days training course by his superiors. Once a year the Union County Police Chiefs' Association conducts a training academy for policemen. This serves all policemen in Union County, as well as those in other counties desirous of using the facilities. At the end of a three month course, certificates are given to those who pass an examination.

The ranks and salaries in the Department are as follows: Police Chief—\$6,400, Captain—\$5,350, Lieutenant—\$5,035, Sergeant—\$4,720, Detective—\$4,720 and Patrolmen with a starting salary of \$3,300. Patrolmen receive a top pay of \$4,300 after four years. Promotions are by competitive examination through Civil Service, and candidates are not permitted to jump ranks. To be eligible for such examinations a candidate must have been a member of the Department for at least four years.

A retirement system provides retirement for persons 51 years of age with 25 years of service at a salary one-half of the average yearly salary paid during the last three years of service. The City and the policeman contribute equally to the Pension Fund. Persons certified by three doctors as being unable to work are eligible for disability pensions.

#### **The Jail**

The local jail is used only for temporary holdover for persons awaiting action of the local court. From the local jail, prisoners are sent to the Union County Jail in Elizabeth, either to serve time or to await action of the Grand Jury. Since the local court has holding power only, prisoners are committed to Elizabeth where they are tried and if convicted, sent to the State Prison in Trenton.

Under the law any person under 18 years of age is considered a juvenile and cannot be confined to jail. Persons between the ages of 18 and 23 are kept separate from the older criminals. The women's section is separate from the men's.

#### **The Municipal Court**

Under New Jersey's Revised Judicial System, the Plainfield Municipal Court is a branch of a state wide uniform court system. Its jurisdiction covers the City of Plainfield.

Stated sessions are held Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 A.M., and Friday evenings at 7:30 P.M. Those sessions are broken down into two parts. Part one deals with traffic

violations and part two with general criminal matters. The Municipal Court is essentially a criminal and not a civil court for the recovery of damages.

The Court is presided over by a Magistrate who serves for a term of 3 years. He is appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Plainfield Common Council.

The Court has original jurisdiction over all criminal and traffic offenses occurring in the City. Annually, there are processed about 2,000 traffic offenses and about 2,000 criminal matters. In addition, the Court has a Violations Bureau where traffic and parking offenses are processed. This Bureau handles about 7,000 of this type of case each year.

There are about 130 varieties of motor vehicle offenses handled. There are about 150 varieties of other criminal offenses within the Court's jurisdiction. These comprise violations of local ordinances, such as dog licenses, building or zoning code violations, health ordinances, breach of peace, etc. Offenses of many varieties under the State Disorderly Persons Act are also handled, such as gambling, prostitution, assaults, bastardy, non-support, school

attendance law enforcement, etc. In the serious crimes, such as murder, arson, robbery, etc., the Court acts as a preliminary hearing agency to determine if there is sufficient evidence to hold an accused person for the Grand Jury.

Under present law, all persons who have not attained the age of 18 years are classified as juveniles. The only Court where such cases can originate against juveniles is the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, which is held in Elizabeth. The only exception to the rule involves traffic offenses by juveniles who have New Jersey driver's licenses.

The City of Plainfield assigns the assistant to the City Attorney to represent the prosecution in matters of prosecution when requested by the Police Department, the Magistrate or other City agencies.

There exists also a three-member Juvenile Conference Committee, appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge, which confers only on cases referred to it by that Judge. It has only an advisory function.

#### **The Fire Department**

The Plainfield Fire Department has its



DICK GAINES

THE PLAINFIELD FIRE HEADQUARTERS

headquarters at 315 Central Avenue and maintains two additional fire stations: Engine Company No. 3 at 730 West Fourth Street and Engine Company No. 4 at 1015 South Avenue.

Administered by the Fire Chief, the department functions under the jurisdiction of the Common Council, four members of which are annually appointed by the Council President to serve as a Fire Committee. This committee maintains close liaison with department needs and operations and presents recommendations for action by the whole Common Council.

In addition to its fire-fighting function, the Fire Department maintains a prevention program through periodic inspections of key areas and places of public assembly: business districts, tenement houses, hotels, schools, stores, theaters, basements and rear yards, with subsequent recommendations for elimination of possible fire hazards.

The Fire Department also maintains the Police and Fire Signal System, which includes traffic signals and electrical signal and communication systems in city buildings. This maintenance staff works in cooperation with the utility companies in modernizing and expanding such facilities, and they do much of the electrical work for all city departments including lighting systems in Parking Lots.

As of May, 1954, the Fire Department personnel totaled 13 officers and 72 privates. Employees are selected by civil service competitive examinations and men are employed on a temporary basis until taking the Civil Service entrance examination. After passing the examination they must serve as probationary firemen for a 90 day period. Firemen must meet the same physical and educational requirements as the policemen. As a rule, applicants take entrance examinations for both the Police and Fire Departments at the same time.

Promotions are also based on civil service

competitive examinations and the ranks in the department are as follows: Chief, Deputy Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, and Firemen — Classes A, B, C, D, and E. A man must serve in each rank for a year before advancing and an increase in rank is accompanied by an increase in pay. The starting salary is \$3,300 per year. Temporary employees remain in the \$3,300, or Class E, grade.

A retirement system provides retirement for employees 51 years of age with 25 years of service, identical with that provided for the Police Department.

A training program is given to new members at their stations. Classroom sessions acquaint the men with the layout of the city.

Most of the city's fire equipment is in good condition. The oldest piece of apparatus (which is held for emergencies) is 23 years old. At the present time no new equipment is deemed necessary to maintain adequate fire protection. Existing equipment includes three 1000-gallon combination pumping engines and one 750-gallon combination pumping engine. There is an 85 foot aerial ladder and a 65 foot aerial ladder. An emergency squad car takes care of emergency and rescue calls. There is also one Chief's car, one Deputy Chief's car, and a supply car which is used for transporting hose, men, gas and supplies. Reserve apparatus, which is used only when other equipment is out or in case of multiple alarms, consists of the 23-year old 1000-gallon pumping engine plus a 23-year old city service truck.

The Fire Insurance Rating Organization of New Jersey establishes the rates in each town, and these rates affect the premiums paid by property owners for fire insurance. This organization is set up on principles established by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Areas having no fire-fighting equipment may rate as low as "K", while residential areas with excellent equipment can rate as high as "A". Plainfield's rating is "B".

# STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION—

## The Lifelines of a City

The prosperity and desirability of a community, both as a residential and an industrial center, hinges on the adequacy of its transportation system. Well-maintained arteries serving business and industry but not encroaching on purely residential areas, traffic controls and sufficient parking space are factors which promote a smooth flow of traffic.

Plainfield's growth in population, industry and as a shopping center has brought, along with prosperity, the problem of traffic management. The Traffic and Parking Commission recently engaged the services of an engineer consultant to survey traffic conditions in the downtown business district and make recommendations. The results of this study were put into effect on a trial basis in August, 1954. A series of one-way streets is intended to speed up traffic flow.

### Traffic Lights

The placement and timing of traffic lights, as well as the placement of traffic control signs, are recommended by the Traffic and Parking Commission to the Common Council. Erection of such controls depends on state as well as council approval. State approval is based on traffic counts, accident experience, and the over-all state travel pattern. Traffic lights in the downtown area have been modernized and set for progressive movement, and it is planned to modernize all others within a five-year period.

### Parking Facilities

On-street parking and three municipal parking lots serve the downtown business district by providing timed parking spaces for approximately 1,460 cars for maximum periods of from one to five hours. Private lots, provided by department and grocery stores and other businesses, make a tremendous contribution.

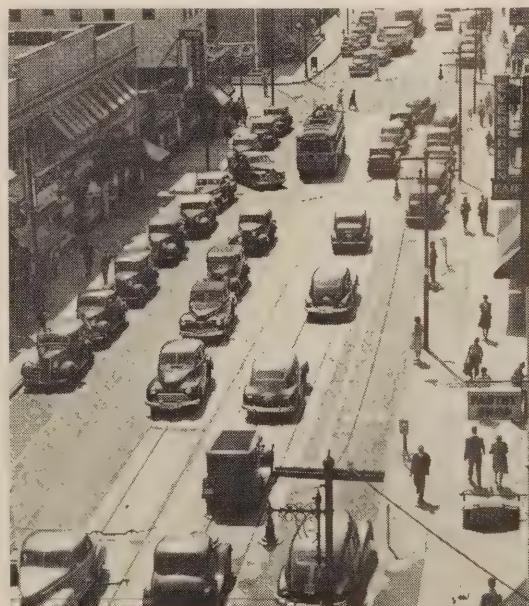
The majority of on-street parking meters provide up to one hour parking, although a few areas adjacent to the main business district allow two hours. The three municipal lots, located north of Front Street between Watchung and Roosevelt Avenues, on Central Avenue between Front and Second Streets and on Second Street between Central and Madison Avenues, provide five hour parking. Railroad property purchased by the city for parking purposes at the Plainfield and Netherwood stations allow ten hour parking.

Building and maintaining the parking lots is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works.

### Care of Streets

Maintenance of Plainfield's streets — 92 miles paved and 13 miles unpaved — is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works, under the supervision of the city engineer. Streets must be built, modernized by widening or repaving, repaired and cleaned. Engineering specifications for major construction are prepared or supervised by the department and construction contracts are let to private firms on the basis of competitive bidding. Street cleaning, pavement maintenance and minor repairs are done by the department. To clear ice and snow, privately-owned trucks are rented and city plows attached to them and operated on an hourly basis by auxiliary help to supplement city-owned and operated equipment.

State Highway 28 runs through the city. East Front Street from Watchung Avenue to Terrill Road, East and West Seventh Streets, Terrill Road, and Park Avenue from Ninth Street south to the city line are county roads and are maintained by Union County.



WATCHUNG AVE.—BEFORE ONE-WAY STREETS

Street-lighting (over 1,600 lights) is also the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. A three-year program to modernize street lights on all major traffic arteries is currently in its second year.

### Sidewalk Program

The city's sidewalk repair program was abandoned during the war for economic reasons. Recently, a full time sidewalk inspector was employed by the Department of Public Works to survey the results of neglect. Following inspection, notices are served to home owners whose walks need repair. If necessary, the city makes the improvement and assesses the owner the cost.

### City Garage

The city garage, under the Department of Public Works, houses much of the city's automotive equipment, the majority of which is less than five years old. The equipment is maintained and serviced at the garage, where all parts, gasoline, oil, etc. are obtained at wholesale prices.

### Care of Trees

The Shade Tree Commission is charged with the maintenance of the approximately 20,000 city owned trees in Plainfield. With an average force of five men, trees are periodically trimmed and sprayed; dead, dangerous and diseased trees are removed and sidewalk con-

ditions caused by tree growth corrected wherever possible. A policy of planting for replacement of trees removed and extension of plantings to newly developed streets has been followed for many years. Tree varieties are selected for their beauty, resistance to disease, hardiness and adaptability to street conditions. Such plantings totalled 280 trees in 1953 and will be increased as rapidly as appropriations permit, in an effort to complete plantings on the large number of new streets developed in the past seven years.

### The Transportation Facilities

All public transportation in Plainfield is handled by privately owned organizations. Bus service within the city and to points outside is provided by the Plainfield Transit Company, the Public Service Corporation and the Somerset Bus Company. The New Jersey Central Railroad has four stations within the city limits and the Baltimore and Ohio and the Reading lines also use these tracks. Present construction is eliminating Plainfield's one grade crossing.

All companies offering public transportation receive their franchises from the city and are subject to municipal control by ordinances passed by the Common Council.

U.S. Highways 22 and 1, as well as the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike, are within a short driving distance of the city.



SPRING IN CEDAR BROOK PARK

UNION COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

# PLANNING AND ZONING—

## Blueprinting Plainfield's Future

City planning is essential to the orderly and balanced growth of a community. Plainfield's first Planning Board was established in 1946 and its function is to guide the physical development of the city so that the best interests of all its citizens will be served.

The board is made up of seven members: the mayor, a councilman, a city official, and at least four citizens. Citizens' terms are for four years; those of city officials run concurrently with their terms of office.

### Long-Range Planning

The Planning Board has worked out a long-range master plan for Plainfield. This plan has been adopted by the board but not by the Common Council. In 1954, a planning consultant was employed by the board to prepare a master plan which will comply in all respects to the 1953 planning laws of the state. When complete, this plan will be submitted to the Common Council for adoption.

The recommendations of this new plan will be based on comprehensive surveys by the Planning Board. Studies are made of the distribution and characteristics of the population, and probable future trends of growth and change are projected. Housing facilities are charted to show average rentals, average home values and degree of owner occupancy, and programs for redevelopment, rehabilitation or conservation are suggested to the Housing Authority for areas showing evidence of blight.

Schools, hospitals, libraries, playgrounds and parks, and other public buildings are considered in regard to location, condition and ability to meet population needs.

The adequacy of public utilities and fire protection is evaluated, and business and shopping facilities are surveyed for convenience of location as well as their effect on traffic and parking. Recommendations for industrial development are made, including type, size and location as well as effect on the tax base of the city and employment opportunities.

All transportation facilities of the city and adjacent areas enter into the board's planning: the location and function of streets and highways in relation to the regional network as well as local traffic generators (shopping centers, factories, etc.), traffic volume and bottlenecks, parking facilities on the basis of economic land use and traffic flow, the adequacy of the public transit systems, and railroads in

the area as they meet the needs of the city's industrial, business and commercial activities.

The costs of the various recommendations of the master plan are estimated and a priority program is established based on the relative importance of the projects and the financial means of the city.

In the light of its master plan, the Planning Board makes recommendations for improvements in the zoning ordinance and the codes affecting new construction, housing, health, sanitation, and land subdivision.

Planning Boards are established in New Jersey municipalities under permissive state laws which were amended in 1953 and the powers of the boards are now conferred upon them by Chapter 433 of the Laws of 1953 of the State of New Jersey.

### Zoning Controls Land Use

The city's zoning ordinance, restricting the use of land to specific purposes, also promotes the orderly growth of the city and protects established areas from projects which would be detrimental to them. It enhances the appearance of the city and restricts congestion by limiting the height and bulk of buildings and regulating the areas provided for yards, courts, and other open spaces.

Plainfield's first zoning ordinance, which includes penalties for violations, was adopted by the Common Council in 1923. The original ordinance and succeeding amendments provide for eleven zones: A, Modified A, B, C, D, Modified D, E, Business, Commercial, Manufacturing, and Railroad. Specific regulations control land use in each of these zones and the Department of Public Works is responsible for their enforcement.

However, exceptions to the zoning ordinance are allowed provided they do not conflict with the general purposes of the ordinance. Such exceptions may be granted by the Board of Adjustment, a body established by the zoning ordinance itself. An appeal to the Board of Adjustment may be made by any person affected by a zoning ordinance decision. Meetings of the board are open to the public, and the chairman has power to subpoena witnesses and records. Any exceptions which are granted must be acted upon within one year. If an appeal is in serious conflict with the zoning ordinance, the board submits its recommendations to the Common Council for decision.

## **The Building Code**

A strict building code regulates all construction in the city and applies equally to new buildings and to buildings constructed since adoption of the first code in 1896. Building permits, issued by the Building Division of the Department of Public Works, are required for all new construction, additions and alterations, detached garages, fuel oil equipment, gasoline storage tanks, signs, removal and/or demolition of buildings, air conditioning and refrigeration, etc.

The building code is enforced by the Department of Public Works through its Building Division (headed by the building inspector), and this department has authority to order correction of any violation. However, appeals from their decisions may be made to the Board of Appeals. Should the decision of the latter board conflict with that of the Department of Public Works, an appeal from the board's determination may be made by the department to the Common Council.

To secure for the public the benefits of new developments in the building industry and yet insure public safety, the Board of Appeals makes investigations, under prescribed procedures, of such new materials or modes of construction intended for use in the city as are not covered in the building code. They promulgate rules setting forth the conditions under which such new developments may be used, and such rules have the same force and effect as provisions of the code.

Such buildings as existed prior to adoption of Plainfield's building code, while not subject thereto, are subject to inspection by the city's public officer. Under a current appointment, the building inspector also acts as the public officer, whose work is related primarily to the city's slum clearance program.

## **The Housing Authority**

The Housing Authority of Plainfield, created in 1950 by the Common Council, serves the dual purpose of eliminating slums and erecting low-cost dwelling units. Although autonomous under state law, the authority works in close cooperation with the council and the Planning Board.

The local housing authority has a four-point program:

1. It recommends that existing city ordinances be enforced by the fire, health and building departments.
2. It seeks to strengthen such ordinances.
3. It has drawn up suggested minimum standards for housing in Plainfield. (The Public Officer Law, passed by the Common Coun-

cil in 1952, gives authority to inspect homes and direct the correction of any violation of the ordinance which relates to the repair, closing or demolition of dwellings unfit for human habitation.)

4. It seeks to keep slum clearance and rehabilitation closely allied by building new housing on land which has been cleared of slum dwellings.

Before beginning a project, the authority must secure approval for necessary loans from the Federal Housing Authority. Such approval depends on proof of need as evidenced by authoritative surveys.

## **Low-Cost Housing**

Plainfield's first low-cost housing development located on Plainfield Avenue between Third and Fourth Street, consists of 128 family units. The project was built by local contractors under the guidance of a local architect, who worked with the local housing authority to keep costs at a minimum while adding such unique features as doors on closets and kitchen cupboards, concealed plumbing, no common halls, and a central incinerator.

Occupants are selected according to preference, income, and housing needs. All must fall within a low income bracket and have been residents of Plainfield for a specified period of time. First consideration is given to families displaced by the housing project. Of this group, disabled veterans, families of deceased veterans, and veterans' families are given priorities according to their incomes and the number of dependents in the family. Next groups to be considered are those living in sub-standard dwellings who were not displaced by the housing project, and the same criteria for eligibility apply to this group. (One definition of sub-standard housing is the sharing of a kitchen or bathroom with another family.)

Rent is charged according to ability to pay, and as family income increases the rent may also increase. As soon as they are able, families are encouraged to maintain homes in privately-owned housing, the ultimate aim being for individual home ownership.

Another area adjacent to the first housing project has recently been cited as blighted, and plans provide for demolition of existing sub-standard dwellings and the construction, by private capital with Federal Housing Authority assistance, of dwelling units for moderate income families. Here it is planned to house such dispossessed families as were ineligible by reason of income for the first project, but who are in need of decent and moderately priced places to live.

# POLITICAL ORGANIZATION—

## Politics Is Your Business

Politics is government in action. Your birth certificate is your introduction to it and from then on, it affects everything you do. The government is as good as the people who participate in it.

It is impossible to know how many citizens in Plainfield are eligible to vote, but through newspaper publicity every effort is made to prepare and interest the new voter and to inform the registered voter.

The city is divided into four wards, and each ward into districts, with a total of 30 districts. The elected local officials are the Mayor and the eleven councilmen (two from each of the four wards and three members at large), the Tax Collector and the Treasurer.

### County Board of Elections

The Union County Board of Elections, composed of two Democrats and two Republicans appointed for two-year terms by the Governor, sets up the election machinery and has jurisdiction over the administration of the state election laws. The ballots are set up by the County Clerk, who interprets the laws pertaining to the elections. Election expenses are paid by the County, except for ballots for Primary elections. The city pays for these.

### District Board of Elections

The Union County Board of Elections appoints a District Board of Elections for each of the election districts. The District Board consists of two Democrats and two Republicans, who are recommended by the local political organizations. The District Board is charged with the responsibility of conducting and carrying out the election duties in its particular district.

While there is but one national government, and forty-eight state governments, there are almost 120,000 local governments in the United States. All political organizations begin at the local level with the committeemen and committeewomen. At the primary elections each year, each political party elects one committeeman and one committeewoman for each of the election districts. With thirty districts, we have sixty committeemen and committeewomen for each political party. As the population grows there may be more.

Jurisdiction over the municipal elections is exercised by the City Clerk. An individual wishing to place his name on the ballot as committeeman files a petition, signed by ten

qualified voters of his party, with the clerk, who in turn checks the petition and then certifies to the County Clerk the names of all candidates filing.

The elected committeemen and women constitute the local party committee and also serve on the county party committee. They perform all the necessary political organization work in their districts and share in shaping the party platforms and in nominating candidates. They represent the basic unit in party politics.

While more than 13,000 voted in the last General Election in Plainfield, little more than 7,000 voted in the Primaries. Yet the Primary is of great importance, for it gives each voter the opportunity to choose the candidate he wishes to run for office and also to choose the officers of his party—the men and women who determine his party's policies.

### The Primary Election

The Primary elections are held on the third Tuesday in April. In New Jersey we have closed primaries, which means a registered voter must express his preference for one of the parties and vote, at that time, for candidates of that party only. Voting in the primaries constitutes registering in the party of your choice and you may not vote in the primaries of another political party, which would be the equivalent of changing parties, until you have refrained from voting for two successive primary elections.

Yearly elections for national, state, county and city officials and on public questions are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Sample ballots are mailed to every registered voter; they also give instructions for the use of the voting machines and designate the location of the polling place for each district. An equal number of election officials from each party is in charge of each polling place.

### Registration

Registration is the key that opens the door of the voting booth on election day. In Plainfield there are over 20,000 registered voters. Registering as a voter in your district before the election is necessary as it makes it possible for officials to check whether the voter is qualified to cast his ballot.

Registration requirements are set forth by the State Election Law. You may register in

Plainfield if you meet the following requirements:

1. a citizen of the United States
2. 21 years of age or over by the next General Election
3. have resided in New Jersey for one year prior to General Election
4. have resided in Union County for five months prior to General Election
5. now reside in the district in which you expect to vote

All states deny the right to vote to an idiot, the insane, or a person disqualified as a criminal.

Registering must be done in person and at least 40 days preceding any election. This may be done at the Union County Board of Election, Court House in Elizabeth or at any municipal clerk's office in Union County (except that of the City Clerk in Elizabeth), or at the City Clerk's Office in Plainfield, located in City Hall, 515 Watchung Avenue. The local City Clerk's office hours are from 9 to 5 from Monday through Friday. Special evening hours for registration are fixed previous to the forty day period during which no registrations may be received. Newspaper publicity is given to these special hours. Failure to register in time or to follow other registration rules may cost one the privilege of voting.

New Jersey has permanent registration and you need not register a second time unless you change your residence, change your name by marriage, divorce or court action, fail to vote for four successive years, or become disqualified. If you move to another address

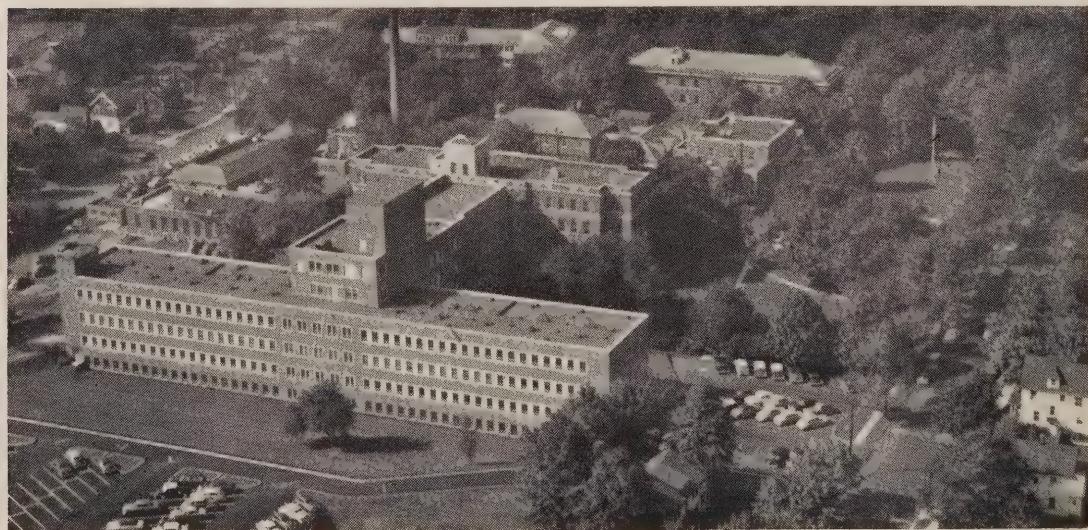
within Union County you may transfer your registration by mailing a notice of the new address on a form provided by the City Clerk. If you move within forty days preceding an election you may vote in that election at your former address by signing an affidavit concerning your change of residence. If you change your name within the forty days preceding an election you may vote in that election by signing both names.

#### Absentee Balloting

Under a new law effective July 1st, 1953, absentee ballots may be cast in New Jersey by mail both by civilians and by members of the armed forces. Applications for these ballots may be made to the County Clerk in person or by mail up to eight days before an election. A friend may make application for a serviceman.

A serviceman home on an election day may cast a military ballot at the County Clerk's office, if no ballot has been mailed to him. Casting a military ballot does not require formal registration.

A registered civilian may vote by absentee ballot if he will be away on election day, or if he is too ill or disabled to go to the regular polling place. A civilian application for an absentee ballot must be signed by the voter and must give the reason it is needed. If a person loses his registration card, he may obtain a duplicate by writing to the Commissioner of Registration, Court House, Elizabeth N. J. and giving his full name and address.



MUHLENBERG HOSPITAL

DICK GAINES

# PLAINFIELD CHURCHES

Bethel Presbyterian Chapel, E. Fifth Street YWCA  
Body of Christ Church, 434 E. Fourth St.  
Calvary Baptist Church, 123 Central Ave.  
Church of God, 647 W. Third St.  
Church of God and Saints of Christ, 1516 W. Third St.  
Church of God in Christ, 203 Liberty St.  
Community Church, 825 W. Seventh St.  
Congregational Church, W. Seventh St. and Madison Ave.  
Congregation Children of Israel, 121 New St.  
Congregation O'havey Zedek V'Sholom, 422 W. Front St.  
Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church, 142 Crescent Ave.  
Faith Congregational Methodist Church, 644 W. Fourth St.  
First Assembly of God Church, 400 W. Eighth St.  
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Prospect Ave. and Ninth St.  
First Methodist Church, W. Front St. and Madison Ave.  
First-Park Baptist Church, W. Seventh St. and Central Ave.  
First Presbyterian Church, 525 E. Front St.  
Friends Meeting House, Watchung Ave. and E. Third St.  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1240 E. Seventh St.  
Grace Episcopal Church, E. Seventh St. and Cleveland Ave.  
Grant Ave. Presbyterian Church, Grant Ave. and W. Sixth St.  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Central Ave. and W. Fifth St.  
Monroe Ave. Methodist Church, Monroe Ave. and W. Fourth St.  
Mount Olive Baptist Church, 216 Liberty St.  
Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, 525 W. Fourth St.  
Mount Zion Pentecostal Assembly, 224 New St.  
Netherwood Reformed Church, Leland Ave. and W. Third St.  
New Apostolic Church, Putnam Ave. and Richmond St.  
Pilgrim Covenant Church, W. Sixth St. and New St.  
Plainfield Company of Jehovah's Witnesses, 202 W. Front St.  
Plainfield Unity Center, 240 W. Front St.  
Plymouth Brethren Church, 610 Arlington St.  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, W. Fifth and Clinton Ave.  
St. Bernard's R. C. Church, 1223 George St.  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 633 E. Third St.  
St. Mary's R. C. Church, 514 Liberty St.  
St. Stanislaus R. C. Church, 1003 W. Fourth St.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Ravine Road  
Salvation Army, E. Seventh St. and Watchung Ave.  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1430 Park Ave.  
Seventh Day Baptist Church, Central Ave. and W. Fifth St.  
Shiloh Baptist Church, 517 W. Fourth St.  
Temple Beth-El, 522 E. Seventh St.  
Temple Sholom, 815 W. Seventh St.  
Trinity Reformed Church, W. Second St. near Park Ave.  
Unitarian Church, Park Ave. near Seventh St.

Bryant, 421 E. Sixth St.  
Clinton, Clinton Ave.  
Cook, 739 Leland Ave.  
Emerson, 305 Emerson Ave.  
Evergreen, 1033 Evergreen Ave.  
Plainfield High, 119 W. Ninth St.  
Hubbard, 661 W. Eighth St.  
Jefferson, 1200 Myrtle Ave.  
Maxson, 920 E. Seventh St.  
Stillman, W. Fourth St. at Arlington Ave.  
Washington, 978 W. Fourth St.  
St. Bernard's School, 380 Sumner Ave.  
St. Mary's School, 513 W. Sixth St.  
Wardlaw School, 1030 Central Ave.  
Yeshiva Institute, 526 W. Seventh St.

# ORGANIZATIONS

Alcoholics Anonymous  
American Association for the United Nations  
American Gold Star Mothers  
American Legion, Ball Kirch Post 265  
American Legion, Ball Kirch Post Auxiliary  
American Legion, Frank Donnelly Post 9  
American Legion, Johnson-Jeter Post 219  
American Newspaper Guild  
American Red Cross  
American Veterans Committee, Plainfield Chapter 534  
Ancient Order Hibernians, Division 4  
Ancient Order Hibernians, Ladies Auxiliary, Div. 1  
Association for Childhood Education  
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Plainfield Lodge 885  
B'nai B'rith  
Boy Scouts of America  
Business and Professional Women's Club  
Catholic Daughters of America, Court Watchung  
Catholic Woman's Club  
Chamber of Commerce of the Plainfields  
Cosmopolitan Club  
Council of Church Women of the Plainfield Area  
Daughters of America, Washington Council 23  
Daughters of the American Revolution, Continental Chapter  
Daughters of St. George, Princess Mary Lodge 224  
Daughters of Scotia, Craigielea Lodge 43  
Deborah  
Disabled American Veterans, Plainfield Chapter 7  
Engineers Club  
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Plainfield Aerie 866  
Free and Accepted Masons, Anchor Lodge  
Free-and-Accepted Masons, Emanuel Lodge 264  
Friendship Rebekah Lodge, No. 4100F  
Girl Scouts of America  
Hiberman Club  
Independent Order of Brith Abraham, Plfd. Lodge 627  
Industrial Relations Club  
Jewish War Veterans, Louis Rothberg Post 119  
Jewish War Veterans, Louis Rothberg Post 119 Auxiliary  
Junior Chamber of Commerce of the Plainfields  
Junior League of Plainfield  
Junior Woman's Club of the Monday Afternoon Club  
Knights of Columbus, Watchung Council 552  
Knights of Pythias, Plainfield Lodge 159  
Knights of Templar, Trinity Commandery 17  
Ladies Social Club  
Legal Aid Society  
Lions Club  
Loyal Order of Moose, Plainfield Lodge 310  
Marine Corp. League, Jos. Gardner Auxiliary  
Mental Hygiene Society of Union County  
Ministers Association of Plainfield and Vicinity

# SCHOOLS

Cooperative Nursery School, 209 Berckman St.  
Drake College, 40 Somerset St.  
Hartridge School, 1040 Plainfield Ave.  
Plainfield Academy, 622 W. Eighth St.  
Public Schools  
Board of Education, 504 Madison Ave.  
Barlow, Farragut Rd. at Front St.

Monday Afternoon Club  
 Monday Night Club  
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 Neighborhood House Association  
 New Jersey Arms Collectors' Club  
 New Jersey P.E.O.  
 Newcomers Club of Plainfield  
 Order of DeMolay, Vigilant Chapter 22  
 Order of Eastern Star, Lydia Chapter 41  
 P. O. of A., Camp 105  
 Parish Players  
 Pilot Club of Plainfield  
 Plainfield Adult Education Council  
 Plainfield Area Little Theater Council  
 Plainfield Art Association  
 Plainfield Association for Public Schools  
 Plainfield Automotive Association  
 Plainfield Bar Association  
 Plainfield Beautification Committee  
 Plainfield Bridge Club  
 Plainfield Camera Club  
 Plainfield Chess Club  
 Plainfield Christian Youth Council  
 Plainfield College Club  
 Plainfield Commission on Civil Rights  
 Plainfield Committee on Human Relations  
 Plainfield Community Concerts Association  
 Plainfield Community Council  
 Plainfield Council for World Friendship  
 Plainfield Country Club  
 Plainfield Cultural Guild  
 Plainfield Dental Society  
 Plainfield Engineering Society  
 Plainfield Foundation  
 Plainfield Garden Club  
 Plainfield Gesang and Turn Verein  
 Plainfield Hadassah  
 Plainfield Hearing Society  
 Plainfield Historical Society  
 Plainfield Kennel Club  
 Plainfield Kiwanis  
 Plainfield Laurel League  
 Plainfield Lawn Bowling Club  
 Plainfield League for Planned Parenthood  
 Plainfield League of Women Voters  
 Plainfield McCall Auxiliary  
 Plainfield Mendelssohn Glee Club  
 Plainfield Musical Club  
 Plainfield Old Guard  
 Plainfield Optimist Club  
 Plainfield Opti-Mrs. Club  
 Plainfield Quota Club  
 Plainfield Republican Club  
 Plainfield Rescue Squad  
 Plainfield Rescue Squad Auxiliary  
 Plainfield Rotary Club  
 Plainfield Safety Council  
 Plainfield Schoolmen's Club  
 Plainfield Ski Club  
 Plainfield Symphony Society  
 Plainfield Teachers' Association  
 Plainfield Volunteer Services of the American Cancer Society  
 Plainfield Woman's Christian Temperance Union  
 Plainfield Young Republican Club  
 Police Athletic League  
 Polish Falcon, Nest 281  
 Polish League  
 Polish National Alliance, Post 1453  
 Private Duty Nurses Association  
 Proscenium Players  
 Rasores  
 Sesame Club of Plainfield  
 Shakespeare Garden Club  
 Showcase  
 Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America  
 Sons and Daughters of Liberty, Old Glory Council 62  
 Spade and Trowel Garden Club  
 Steuben Society, Peter Muhlenburg Unit 398  
 Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Plainfield Forest 84  
 Ukrainian Society, Ivan Franko Branch 372  
 Union of King's Daughters  
 United Family and Childrens' Society  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Memorial Post 7474  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Memorial Post 7474 Auxiliary  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Storr-Richie Post 506  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Storr-Richie Post 506 Auxiliary  
 Visiting Nurses Association  
 Watchung Nature Club  
 Women's Auxiliary Board of Muhlenberg Hospital  
 Woman's Relief Corp. Auxiliary to G.A.R., Winfield Scott Corp. 10  
 Women of the Moose, Plainfield Chapter 459  
 Women's Democratic Club  
 Women's Republican Club of Plainfield  
 Young Men's Christian Association  
 Young Woman's Congenial Club  
 Young Women's Christian Association

**PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS**

- Barlow School
- Bryant School
- Clinton School
- Cook School
- Emerson School
- Evergreen School
- Franklin-Whittier Schools
- Hartridge School
- Hubbard School
- Irving School
- Jefferson School
- Maxson School
- Plainfield High School

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## ADDRESSING & DUPLICATING

Bird Letter Service, 620 Arlington Ave.  
The FairMail Service, 417 Cleveland Ave.

## ADVERTISING AGENCIES

The FairMail Service, 417 Cleveland Ave.  
Forbes Advertising Agency, 300 Park Ave.  
Gregory Ruffa Advertising, 247 W. Front St.  
The Technics Co., 200 W. 7th St.  
Ernest B. Zeneker, 209 W. Front St.

## AMUSEMENTS

Plainfield Amusement Academy, 343 Watchung Ave.

## APPLIANCES

T. H. Fulton Frigidaire, 415 Park Ave.  
Gem Vacuum Stores, 341 Watchung Ave.  
Jersey Tire Co., 228 W. Front St.  
Ted's Music & Appliance Center, 127 W. 2nd St.  
Union Tire & Motor Co., 222 E. 5th St.

## ART STORES

Swain's Art Store, 317 W. Front St.

## AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

F. Day Co. (Ford), 110-124 E. 5th St.  
Endress Motors Inc. (Buick), 308 Park Ave.  
Goodwin Motor Corp. (Studebaker), 115 E. 5th St.  
Hoag & Shinker (Nash), Park Ave. & W. 7th St.  
H.O.B. Motors Inc. (Chevrolet), 136 E. 5th St.  
Laing Motor Car Co. (Cadillac-Oldsmobile), 119 E. 5th St.  
Liccaldi Motors (DeSoto-Plymouth), 425 Park Ave.  
Messmer Motors, Inc. (Lincoln-Mercury), 120 W. 7th St.  
Robert A. Nash Co. (Hudson), 114 E. 2nd St.  
National Motor Sales, Inc. (used), 1800 W. Front St.  
A. J. Orbach Co. (Dodge-Plymouth), W. 6th & Arlington Ave.  
Rawson Motors Inc. (Pontiac), 320 Park Ave.  
Sal Motors (used), 1136 South Ave.  
Suburban Motors (imported), 630 South Ave.  
Toman's Truck Sales & Service, 334 E. 3rd St.

## AUTOMOBILE PARTS & ACCESSORIES

Thul Auto Parts, 325 E. 3rd St.

## AUTOMOBILE SERVICE AND REPAIRS

Grygent's Auto Body Service, 150 E. 4th St.  
Barbara's Garage (Truck repairs), 549 E. 3rd St.  
Fred W. Huttenschmid, 347 Watchung Ave.  
Marino Auto Radiator & Metal Works, Inc., 119 Waynewood Park

Randolph Texaco Station, 106 Randolph Road

## AUTOMOTIVE CONSTRUCTION

Custom Body Service, 1852 W. Front St.

## AWNINGS

A. N. Laggren Awning & Canvas Mfg. Co., Inc. 145 North Ave.  
August N. Laggren, Inc., 132 W. 2nd St.

## BAKERIES

Gold Star Bakery, 225 Garfield Ave.

## BANKS

Mid-City Trust Co., 201 E. Front St.  
The Plainfield National Bank, E. Front at Park Ave.  
Plainfield Savings Bank, 102 E. Front St.  
The Plainfield Trust Co., Park Ave. at 2nd St.  
State Trust Co., 221 Park Ave.

## BEVERAGES

Watchung Spring Water Co., Inc., 434 W. 4th St.

## BICYCLES

Lou Coon's Bicycle Shop, 411-A Park Ave.  
Mechanik's, 416 W. Front St.

## BOOKS

The Plainfield Book Shop, Inc., 321 Park Ave.  
P M Book Shop, 330 Park Ave.  
World Book Encyclopedia, R.D. 3, Plainfield

## BRIDAL SHOPS

McGrath's Bridal Shop, 214 Park Ave.

## BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Renascence Building & Loan Ass'n., 119 Watchung Ave.

## BUILDING MATERIALS

J. D. Loizeaux Lumber Co., 861 South Ave.

Plainfield Lumber & Supply Co., 401 Berckman St.

## BUSINESS PAPERS

Bonnell Publications, Inc., 118 E. 7th St.

## CHILDREN'S WEAR

Ideal Shop, Inc., 129 E. Front St.

Fred Lippitt, 117 Watchung Ave.

Ruth Morgan Inc., 519 Park Ave.

Tiny Tots to Teens, 231 W. Front St.

Toddletown, 207 W. Front St.

## CHIROPRACTORS

Dr. Joseph Barylick, 1101 Watchung Ave.

Dr. John J. Carone, 109 E. 5th St.

Dr. Joseph E. Chickering, 518 E. Front St.

Dr. Frederick E. Diem, 822 Park Ave.

Dr. Louis Glickman, 352 E. Front St.

Dr. Daniel N. Jedny, 105 E. 7th St.

Dr. Richard John Ripley, 620 E. Front St.

Dr. William H. Ripley, 822 Park Ave.

## COMBINATION WINDOWS & DOORS

A. N. Laggren Awning & Canvas Mfg. Co., Inc., 145 North Ave.

Permaseal Products Co., 134 North Ave.

## COMMERCIAL TESTING LABORATORIES

The Haller Testing Labs., Inc., 334 Leland Ave.

## CONFETIONERS

Loft's Candy Shops, 120 W. Front St.

## CORSETRY

Gossard Corset Shop, 186 E. Front St.

Williams Corset Salon, 515 Park Ave.

## COSMETIC ACCESSORIES

Q. W. Laboratories, 915 W. Front St.

## CREDIT BUREAUS

Credit Bureau of Central N.J., 9 Watchung Ave.

## DELIVERY SERVICE

Garvey's Parcel Service, 310 E. 2nd St.

## DEPARTMENT STORES

L. Bamberger & Co., 249 E. Front St.

Rosenbaum Bros., 163-71 E. Front St.

Surprise Store, 168 E. Front St.

Tepper's, Front & Somerset Sts.

## DRAWING INSTRUMENTS

Union Instrument Corp., 1447 E. 2nd St.

## DRESSMAKING

Miss Laura J. Christiansen, 730 Woodland Ave.

## DRY CLEANERS

G. O. Keller, Inc., South & Leland Aves.

Onore's, 315 Park Ave.

S & S Cleaners & Dyers, 105 E. 4th St.

Samoset Laundry Service Inc., 904 North Ave.

Vogue Cleaners & Dyers, 4th & Central Ave.

## ELECTRIC MOTOR REBUILDING

Demco Electric Co., 337 E. 5th St.

## ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Stavid Engineering Inc., Plainfield

## EMBALMERS

Chas. A. Higgins, 209 W. 8th St.

## ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

Wigton-Abbott Corporation, 1225 South Ave.

## FABRICS

Reliable Fabric Shop, 337 Watchung Ave.

Schwartz Fabric Shop, 303-05 W. Front St.

## FANS

Chelsea Fan & Blower Co., Inc., 639 South Ave.

## FINANCE COMPANIES

Home Improvement Financing Corp., 240 W. Front St.

Prudential Loan Co., 328 Park Ave.

Queen City Finance Co., 339 Park Ave.

**FLOOR COVERINGS**

Frank B. Harty, 128 North Ave.  
Miron's, 132-140 E. Front St.

**FLORISTS**

Henry Hansen, 521 Park Ave.  
Lachy's Floral Shop, 169 North Ave.  
Snyder Bros., 314 Park Ave.

**FUEL DEALERS**

Black Diamond Fuel Co., 300 Park Ave.  
Boice-Ryunon Inc., 929 South Ave.  
T. R. Loizeaux Fuel Co., 1630 S. 2nd St.  
Plainfield Lumber and Supply Co., 401 Berckman St.  
Smith & Vail, 208 Madison Ave.  
Geo. O. Stevens, 11 Grant Ave.

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

Crescent Home—P. Casey & Son, 151 E. 7th St.  
Chas. A. Higgins, 209 W. 8th St.  
Memorial Funeral Home—Thomas C. Keiser, 400 Franklin Pl.  
A. M. Runyon & Son, 900 Park Ave.  
Romeo A. Baker, 900 Park Ave.  
Fred L. Hoffman, 900 Park Ave.

**FUNERAL HOMES**

Higgins Home for Funerals, 209 W. 8th St.  
Judkins Colonial Funeral Home, 428 W. 4th St.

**FURRIES**

Hollywood Tailors & Furriers, 315 Watchung Ave.  
Morris Perlmutter, 607 Park Ave.  
Settles Custom Furrier, 211 North Ave.  
Vogel's Custom Furriers, 206 E. Front St.

**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**

John's Bargain Store, 246 W. Front St.

**GIFT SHOPS**

Gort's Gift Shop, 213 E. 5th St.  
The Wishing Well, Inc., 106 E. 7th St.

**GLASS**

Union Glass Co., 412 W. Front St.

**HANDBAG MANUFACTURERS**

Damiller Bag Co., 945 South Ave.

**HARDWARE**

Gowdy's Hardware, 1103 South Ave.  
Gundersen Paint & Harware Store, 202-04 Clinton Ave.  
F. A. Kirch & Co., 108 North Ave.  
Park Hardware, 617 Park Ave.

**HEARING AIDS**

Home Audiphone Co., 1414 E. 7th St.  
Frank N. Neher, 211 E. 5th St.  
Sonotone of Plainfield, 7 Watchung Ave.

**HOBIES**

Bert's Hobbyart, 412 Watchung Ave.

**HOTELS**

The Park Hotel, Arlington Ave. & W. 7th St.

**HOUSE FURNISHINGS**

A. M. Griffen Hardware Co., Inc., 20 Somerset St.  
Miron's, 132-140 E. Front St.  
The Plainfield Furniture Co., 115 Madison Ave.

**INSURANCE**

Brouard-Fleming Co., 108 Depot Park  
Richard T. Bueschel Agency, Inc., 117 North Ave.  
Charles B. Clark, 121 North Ave.  
DiDario & Marino Agency, Inc., 287 Netherwood Ave.  
Finnerty & Linger, 109 Park Ave.  
Equitable Life Assurance Soc. of the U.S., 120 W. 7th St., David D. Kuehn, District Mgr.  
C. J. Hellen, 802 Central St.  
Keenan & Zimmer, 422 Richmond St.  
Frederick A. Martin, 185 North Ave.  
James J. Meaney 211 W. Front St.  
Myron S. Mendelson, 240 W. Front St.  
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., 7 Watchung Ave., Joseph Mulholland, Mgr.  
Edward J. Oliver, 110 New St.  
William T. Reilly Agency, 167 North Ave.

Harry Rothberg, Inc., 129 Park Ave.

R. E. Scott Co., 512 W. Front St.  
Silbert, Waglow and Vail, Inc., 7 Watchung Ave.  
J. Herbert Stevenson, 160 E. 2nd St.  
J. S. Ulrich & Co., 108 E. 7th St.  
Lewis D. Walker, 955 Prospect Ave.  
W. A. Woodruff & Son, 212 Park Ave.

**JEWELERS**

Bernstein Jewelers, 126 Park Ave.  
Gold-Stone's, 148 E. Front St.  
Robert Lipton, Inc., 121 Park Ave.  
Madison Jewelers, 120 Madison Ave.  
Daniel D. Malachuk, 177 North Ave.  
Scott's Jewelers, 609 Park Ave.  
Taylor's Jewelers, 115 Park Ave.

**LANDSCAPING & NURSERY**

Doane's Nursery & Garden Market, 502 Woodland Ave.

**LAUNDRIES**

Jay Laundry, 318 Fillmore Ave.  
Samoset Laundry Service, Inc., 904 North Ave.  
Watchung Laundromat (self-service), 408 Watchung Ave.

**LIGHTING FIXTURES**

Eiseman's, 333 Park Ave.

**LOAN COMPANIES**

Personal Finance Co. of Plainfield, 9 Watchung Ave.

**LOCKSMITHS**

Grove Key Shop, 4 Grove St.

**MACHINE TOOLS**

Walker-Turner, 900 North Ave.

**MAILING OPERATIONS**

The FairMail Service, 417 Cleveland Ave.

**MATERNITY WEAR**

Maternity Togs, Inc., 243 W. Front St.

**MEMBERS OF N.Y. STOCK EXCHANGE**

Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane, (Fridays)  
MiFrank's Parking Lot  
Orvis Bros. & Co., 216 Park Ave.

**MEMORIALS**

L. L. Manning & Son, 405 W. Front St.

Plainfield Granite Works, Richmond & E. 4th Sts.

**MEN & BOYS' WEAR**

Blair's 110 E. Front St.

John Frank's, 131 Park Ave.

Wyatt's, 111 Park Ave.

**METAL PRODUCTS**

Allen D. Tompkins, 301 E. 4th St.

**MILK & DAIRY PRODUCTS**

Borden's Farm Products of N.J., Inc., 225 Madison Ave.

**MILLINERY**

Miracle Millinery, 142 E. Front St.

**MUSIC & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Gregory's Music Center, 330 W. Front St.

The Piano Shop, 124 Madison Ave.

Plainfield Music Shop, 141 W. 2nd St.

**OPTICIANS**

Gall & Lembeke, Inc.—R. Lembeke Obrig, 633 Park Ave.

Frank N. Neher, 211 E. 5th St.

Louis E. Saft, 624 Park Ave.

**OUTBOARD MOTORBOAT MANUFACTURERS**

Mastercraft Products, 915 W. Front St.

**PAINT AND WALLPAPER**

Essel Paint & Wallpaper Co., 156 E. Front St.

Matzen Paint, 222 Watchung Ave.

**PAPER PRODUCTS**

Sanitary Products Corp. of America, 633 North Ave.

**PARTY SUPPLIES**

The Book Shelf, 114 Madison Ave.

**PET SHOPS**

Plainfield Pet & Poultry Supply Co., 204 Watchung Ave.

**PHARMACIES**

Academy Pharmacy, 401 Watchung Ave.  
Belvidere Pharmacy, 1101 South Ave.  
C. H. Hall & Co., 506 Watchung Ave.  
Dudley S. Miller Rexall Pharmacy, 401 Park Ave.  
Park Pharmacy, 701 Park Ave.  
Quality Drug Store, 108 W. 2nd St.  
Rappe Pharmacy, 611 Park Ave.  
Richmond Pharmacy, 443 E. 5th St.  
Tobin's Drug Store Inc., 189 E. Front St.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Dick Gaine, 1109 W. 5th St.  
Lorstan Studios, Inc., 255 W. Front St.  
Harold G. Morse, 827 Madison Ave.  
The Normandy Studio, 107 Watchung Ave.  
Photo Associates, 104 E. Front St.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES**

Plainfield Camera Shop, 236 Park Ave.

**PRINTERS**

Boise Printing Co., 122 E. 2nd St.  
Graphic Printing Co., 134 Madison Ave.  
Interstate Printing Corp., 400 Watchung Ave.  
Recorder Press, 510 Watchung Ave.  
Chas. D. Tebbs, 718 Leland Ave.

**RADIO AND TELEVISION**

Hedberg Radio & Television Service, 227 E. 2nd St.  
Merle Radio Co., 110 E. 7th St.

**REAL ESTATE**

Carko Realty Co., 512 W. Front St.  
Dorio Realty, 1262 E. Front St.  
Levincorp, 328 Park Ave.  
Samuel Milecofsky, 204 E. Front St.  
Joseph A. Natale, 16 Sandford Ave.  
A. W. York, 433 E. 7th St.

**REALTORS**

Ann Bartell, 721 Madison Ave.  
Milton Brown, 131 North Ave.  
Buxton-Marsh Co., 189 North Ave.  
Charles B. Clark, 121 North Ave.  
Arthur Lavenhar Agency, 240 W. Front St.  
The Molter Agency, 120 North Ave.  
J. J. Schwartz, 238 Park Ave.  
Ralph & Calvin Schwartz, 247 W. Front St.  
J. S. Ulrich & Co., 108 E. 7th St.

**RUG CLEANERS**

Aziz Hamrah & Son, 210 E. 4th St.

**SALES PROMOTION**

The FairMail Service, 417 Cleveland Ave.

**SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATIONS**

Central Federal Savings & Loan Association, 144 Park Ave.  
Queen City Savings & Loan Association, 107 Park Ave.

**SEWING MACHINES**

Singer Sewing Center, 125 W. Front St.

**SHOES**

A. S. Beck Shoe Corp., 103 E. Front St.  
David Bruce Ltd., 137 Park Ave.  
Lion Shoes, 114 E. Front St.  
Miles Shoes, 133 E. Front St.  
Weston's Shoes, 204 E. Front St.

**SIGNS**

Frank A. Scherer, 121 Madison Ave.  
The Schneider Sign Studio, 115 and 122 Church St.

**SOFT WATER**

Central Jersey Water Conditioning Co., 327 E. 5th St.  
Soft Water Supply, Inc., 929 South Ave.

**SPECIALTY SHOPS**

Mary Ann Hat Shops, 125 Park Ave.

**SPORTING GOODS & LUGGAGE**

Dreier's Sporting Goods, 215 W. Front St.

**STATIONERS**

Howard W. Boise, Inc., 144 E. Front St.

Estil's Inc., 205 Park Ave.

Lazaar's, 126 Watchung Ave.

Plainfield Commercial Stationers, 142 North Ave.

**STRUCTURAL STEEL**

Plainfield Iron & Metal Co., 1300 So. 2nd St.

**TAXIS**

Pat's Taxi, 147 North Ave.

Plainfield Taxi Service, 207 North Ave.

**TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE**

Anserphone, 435 Park Ave.

**TELEVISION SALES & SERVICE**

Television Conversions (R.C.A.), 1011 South Ave.

Union Television Parts Co., 403 Watchung Ave.

**THEATRES**

Liberty Theatre, 434 W. Front St.

**TIRES**

Plainfield General Tire Co. Inc., 118 Church St.

**TOYS, NOVELTIES, & SCHOOL SUPPLIES (Wholesale)**

Samuel Simon, 406 Watchung Ave.

**TRAVEL BUREAUS**

The Caroli Travel Bureau, 123 North Ave.

**TRUCK MANUFACTURERS**

Mack Manufacturing Corporation, 1355 W. Front St.

**TYPEWRITER SALES & SERVICE**

Thompson Typewriters Inc., 187 North Ave.

**UPHOLSTERERS**

George W. Lenskold, 135 W. 2nd St.

**VARIETY STORES**

Belvidere Variety Shop, 1041 South Ave.

F. W. Woolworth Co., 219-21 E. Front St.

**VENETIAN BLINDS**

The Apex Shop, 312 Watchung Ave.

**WATER SOFTENING**

Central Jersey Water Conditioning Co., 327 E. 5th St.

**WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

J. H. Germershausen Inc., 305 E. 3rd St.

**WOMEN'S WEAR**

Brotman's, 515 Park Ave.

Margaret Davis Dress Shop, 623 Park Ave.

Dorothy Jean Shop, 516 Park Ave.

Elliott's, 179 E. Front St.

Ida Gavett Shop, 402 Park Ave.

Mary Goodwin Shop, 620 Park Ave.

The Jim'ny Cricket, 607 Park Ave.

Lustig's, 196 E. Front St.

Nugent's, 116 W. Front St.

Don Robert's, 107 W. Front St.

Lulie Robinson Shop, 613 Park Ave.

Claire Williams, 207 Park Ave.

**WINDOW SHADES**

American Shade & Awning Co., 408 W. Front St.

PLAINFIELD RESCUE SQUAD .....PL. 6-6000  
FIRE DEPARTMENT .....PL. 6-1500  
POLICE DEPARTMENT .....PL. 6-6000  
CITY CLERK .....PL. 6-2700  
MAYOR .....PL. 6-2701  
POST OFFICE .....PL. 6-5200  
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....PL. 6-0569  
BOARD OF HEALTH .....PL. 6-0704  
BOARD OF EDUCATION .....PL. 7-1110  
DOG WARDEN .....PL. 4-0300

**MAP  
OF  
PLAINFIELD  
AND  
NORTH  
PLAINFIELD**

**PUBLISHED 1953**

**Presented to you by  
THE PLAINFIELD TRUST COMPANY  
PLAINFIELD, N. J.**

**MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT  
INSURANCE CORPORATION**

# PLAINFIELD AND NORTH PLAINFIELD CHURCHES

## PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bryant School .....	L-8
F. W. Cook School .....	O-10
DeWitt Barlow School .....	N-6
Emerson School .....	P-7
Evergreen School .....	K-11
Franklin School .....	J-8
High School .....	J-10
Hubbard School .....	G-10
Irving School .....	E-8
Jefferson School .....	D-5
Lincoln School .....	M-7
Maxson School .....	N-9
Stillman School .....	J-8
Washington School .....	G-8
Whittier School .....	I-9

## NO. PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

East End School .....	M-5
Harrison School .....	H-3
High School .....	I-3
Somerset School .....	J-5
Watchung School .....	J-4
West End .....	E-3

## OTHER SCHOOLS, ETC.

Hartridge School .....	G-10
St. Bernard's School .....	P-7
St. Joseph's School .....	J-5
St. Mary's School .....	H-8
Wardlaw School .....	H-11
Y. M. C. A. ....	K-8
Y. M. C. A. --- (Moorland) .....	G-8
Y. W. C. A. ....	K-7
Y. W. C. A. (5th Street) .....	K-9
Y. M. H. A. ....	I-9
Plainfield Academy .....	G-9

Bethel Presb. Chapel (Y. W. C. A.) .....	K-9
Beth Israel Temple .....	I-7
Bible Truth Hall .....	K-7
Calvary Baptist .....	I-7
Christian and Missionary Alliance .....	J-4
Church of God .....	G-8
Congregational Church .....	I-9
Congregation Ohav Sholem .....	I-8
Congregation Rodeph Sholem .....	I-8
Crescent Ave. Presb. ....	K-9
First Park Baptist .....	I-9
First Church Christ Scientist .....	J-10
First M. E. Church .....	I-7
First Presb. Church .....	L-6
Friends Meeting House .....	J-7
German Evang. Reformed .....	I-6
Gethsemane Lutheran .....	L-9
Grace M. E. Church .....	J-5
Grace P. E. Church .....	J-9
Grant Ave. Presb. Church .....	F-8
Grove Street Chapel .....	I-7
Holy Cross .....	I-5
Hydewood Baptist .....	L-5

Messiah Lutheran .....	I-8
Mount Olive Baptist .....	I-8
Mount Zion A.M.E. ....	H-8
Mount Zion Pentacostal Assembly .....	I-8
Monroe Ave. M. E. ....	F-8
Netherwood Reformed .....	O-7
New Apostolic .....	L-9
Pilgrim Covenant .....	I-9
Plymouth Brethren .....	J-9
R. C. Church .....	F-8
St. Andrews Epis. ....	D-8
St. Bernards .....	P-7
St. Joseph's R. C. ....	J-5
St. Mark's Epis. ....	M-7
St. Mary's .....	H-8
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church .....	I-5
St. Stephen's Epis. ....	N-10
Seventh Day Adventist .....	I-15
Seventh Day Baptist .....	I-8
Shiloh Baptist .....	H-8
Temple .....	F-9
Trinity Reformed .....	J-7
Unitarian Church .....	J-9
Unity Center .....	J-6
Watchung Ave. Presb. ....	J-5



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